

ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY AT UXMAL
VOL. 4

George F. Andrews
University of Oregon

C O N T E N T S

- 1. CHENES BUILDING #1**
- 2. CHENES BUILDING #2**
- 3. GROUP 24**
- 4. SOUTH ACROPOLIS**
 1. North Quadrangle
 2. Dove-Cotes building
 3. South Temple
 4. West Annex
- 5. GREAT PYRAMID**
- 6. PYRAMID OF THE OLD WOMAN**
 1. Lower Temple
- 7. GROUP OF TEMPLE OF THE PHALLI**
- 8. STELA PLATFORM**
- 9. CHANCHIMEZ GROUP**
- 10. ROUND BUILDING**
- 11. PORTAL VAULT**
- 12. MISC. GROUPS**

CHENES BUILDING #1

CHENES BUILDINGS, WEST SIDE OF PLATFORM OF HOUSE OF THE GOVERNOR

The two buildings that are commonly known as Chenes Buildings 1 and 2 are found on the west side of Platform 2 of the House of the Governor (see sketch plan). Both of these structures clearly antedate the west side of Platform 2 and the nominally straight sides of the platform had to be considerably modified to accomodate the previously existing buildings. The east end of Structure 1, which is at right angles to the west side of Platform 2, is actually partly buried within the platform although its roof level is about .91 meters higher than the level of the platform. Kowalski (1987, fig. 12) shows a stairway just south of the rear wall of Building 1 but my notes show that the stepped sides of Platform 2 butt up directly to the rear wall of Building 1. Both my plan and Kowalski's plan show that sufficient space was left in front of Chenes Building 1 to allow access into its three front rooms.

Chenes Building 2 is situated about 12.16 meters northwest of Building 1 and its north end was also blocked off by the construction of Platform 2 of the House of the Governor. Between Buildings 1 and 2 is a small court, which unfortunately is partly filled with debris and generally covered with weeds, making exploration extremely difficult. Chenes Building 2 is roughly parallel to the House of the Governor and according to my measurements, its long axis is oriented to twenty-three degrees east of magnetic north.

Both of these structures were described and illustrated by Pollock (1970: 66-78) but inasmuch as his data was recorded prior to the time Building 1 was excavated and consolidated by Ruz, it seems usefull to present my own data in some detail, since it includes details uncovered by Ruz's excavation project.

SITE: UXMAL

NUMBER: 16Qd(10): 1

DATE: 1/20/1974

Lower Building # 6

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Medium-sized, range-type building with two parallel rows of rooms; three pairs of rooms (front and back), with doorways on north side. Facade of central room, north side, projects out in front of adjacent facades for a distance of .43 meters, making a typical three-part, Chenes type facade. Remains of large, zoomorphic mask around doorway of central room, north side, which undoubtedly continued up to fill upper wall zone. Interesting detail on facade in front of Room 1 (northeast room) where medial molding breaks up over doorway. Most of east end, and about two thirds of rear wall, buried when west side of platform supporting Governor's Palace and House of the Turtles was built (see sketch plan). Building excavated and consolidated by Alberto Ruz in 1947, and my data recorded some years later.

ORIENTATION: 23.5 degrees (magnetic), perpendicular to front (north) wall.

EXTERIOR DETAILS: Details below are for North and South facades.

BASE MOLDING:

Form: Three members. Rectangular lower member, with recessed central member above. Face of upper member has slight inward slope.

Size: Upper 2 members .51 m. high total. Upper member .14 m. high.

Projection: .037 m. (approx.) at top.

Decoration: Groups of short colonnettes in central member, alternating with plain areas.

LOWER WALL ZONE:

Height: 2.56 m., top of base molding to bottom of medial molding.

Stonework: Walls faced with small, squarish blocks, set in even courses. These blocks are thicker than typical Puuc veneer-type blocks.

Thickness: Front walls, about .62 m. thick at doorjambs.

Decoration: Large, zoomorphic mask around doorway to central room, north side. Other walls are plain.

DOORWAYS:

Shape: Rectangular.

Jambs: Faced with small blocks, similar to those used in wall facings.

Lintels: Wood lintels, now mostly fallen. Lintels in place over doorway in dividing wall between eastern rooms (Rooms 1 and 2) but these may be new replacements.

MEDIAL MOLDING:

Form: Two members. Large, apron-type lower member with narrow, rectangular member at top.

Size: Overall height .56 m.

Projection: .15 m. at bottom.

Decoration: None.

Other: Medial molding breaks up over doorway to Room 1 (northeast room) and presumably over doorway to Room 5, though front wall of this room now mostly fallen.

UPPER WALL ZONE:

Height: 1.05 m., top of medial molding to bottom of cornice molding.

Stonework: Where plain, wall faced with small, roughly dressed blocks with squarish faces.

Decoration: Large, zoomorphic mask above doorway to central room, now mostly fallen. Corner masks at northeast and northwest corners of Room 1 (northeast room) with adjacent plain colonnettes. Groups of three or four plain colonnettes in rear (south) wall, alternating with plain areas.

CORNICE:

Form: Three members although only lower member is still in place. Apron-type members top and bottom, with rectangular central member.

Size: Overall height about .95 m.

Projection: .12 m. at bottom.

Decoration: None.

ROOF STRUCTURE: None.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Classic Chenes style.

COMMENTS: All of the architectural, construction, and decorative features seen in this building are typical for the Classic Chenes architectural style. Particularly noteworthy in this regard are the three-part north facade, large zoomorphic mask around central doorway of north facade, small Chenes-type long-nosed corner masks in upper facade, and a broken medial molding over the doorway to northeast (and presumably northwest) room(s). Stonework is typically Chenes in character and lack of offsets in end walls at height of vault springline is also a typical Chenes detail.

SITE: UXMAL

NUMBER: 16Qd(10): 1

DATE: 1/20/1974

CHENES BUILDING 1 (West of Governor's Palace)

INTERIOR DETAILS: Room 1

DIMENSIONS:

Length: 6.01 m.

Width: 2.32 m.

WALLS:

Height: 2.84 m., floor to springline.

Thickness: Front wall - .62 m. thick.

Stonework: Walls faced with small blocks of varying size, deeply tailed into hearting.

Doorways: Exterior doorway 1.84 m. wide.

Rod Sockets: No data.

Cordholders: None noted.

Wall Openings: None.

Platforms: None.

Other: Projecting molding at bottom of rear wall, .15 m. high. .025 m. projection at top.

VAULTS:

Springline Offset: About .037 m., long walls. No offsets in end walls at springline.

Height: 1.36 m. (approx), springline to bottom of capstones.

Form: Vault faces have straight sides.

Stonework: Vault faced with roughly dressed slabs with beveled faces. Shape and size of facing stones considerably different than those seen in typical Puuc buildings.

Capstones: Capstone span about .38 m. No molding below capstones.

Crossbeams: Single crossbeams near ends of room, just below springline. Additional crossbeams just below capstones.

OBSERVATIONS: Two steps in front of exterior doorway - see plan.

5

SITE: UXMAL

NUMBER: 16Qd(10): 1

DATE: 1/20/1974

CHENES BUILDING 1 (West of Governor's Palace)

INTERIOR DETAILS: Room 2

DIMENSIONS:

Length: 5.95 m.

Width: 2.48 m.

WALLS:

Height: 2.50 m., floor to springline.

Thickness: Dividing wall to front room (Room 1) .70 m. thick at doorjamb. Rear wall .71 m. thick.

Stonework: Walls faced with small blocks with squarish faces, only moderately well-finished.

Doorways: Doorway in north wall 1.85 m. wide, wood lintels above, .17 m. thick.

Rod Sockets: Small rod sockets in both jambs, one high, two below.

Cordholders: Tongue-type cordholders adjacent to both jambs, high and low.

Rings: None.

Other: Floor of this room raised .15 m. above floor of outer room.

VAULTS:

Springline Offset: About .037 m. long walls. No offsetss in end walls at vault springline.

Height: 1.52 m., springline to bottom of capstones.

Form: Vault faces have straight sides.

Stonework: Vault faced with roughly dressed slabs with beveled faces.

Capstones: Capstone span about .38-.40 m.

Crossbeams: Single crossbeams near ends of room, just below springline. Additional crossbeams in first course of vault stones below capstone.

OBSERVATIONS: Stonework and vaulting is typical for Chenes style buildings.

SITE: UXMAL

NUMBER: 16Qd(10): 1

DATE: 1/20/1974

CHENES BUILDING 1 (West of Governor's Palace)

INTERIOR DETAILS:

ROOM 3

Length: 7.30 m.

Width: 2.44 m.

Doorway: Exterior doorway 2.15 m. wide. Raised platform in front, 3.43 m. wide, .61 m. high - see plan.

Special Features: Shallow niche in front wall, east side.

Other: Step up to rear room, .15 m. high.

ROOM 4

Length: 7.30 m.

Width: 2.48 m.

Doorway: Doorway in north wall 2.0 m. wide.

Rod Holders: Small rod holders, one high, two below, in both jambs.

Cordholders: Tongue-shaped cordholders high and low, both sides of doorway.

Rings: Small stone rings, both sides of doorway, immediately below springline.

Other: Floor of this room raised .15 m. above floor of outer room.

ROOM 5

Length: 5.77 m. (approx.)

Width: 2.44 m.

Doorway: Exterior doorway 1.89 m. wide. Steps and platform in front - see plan.

Other: Step up to rear room .15 m. high.

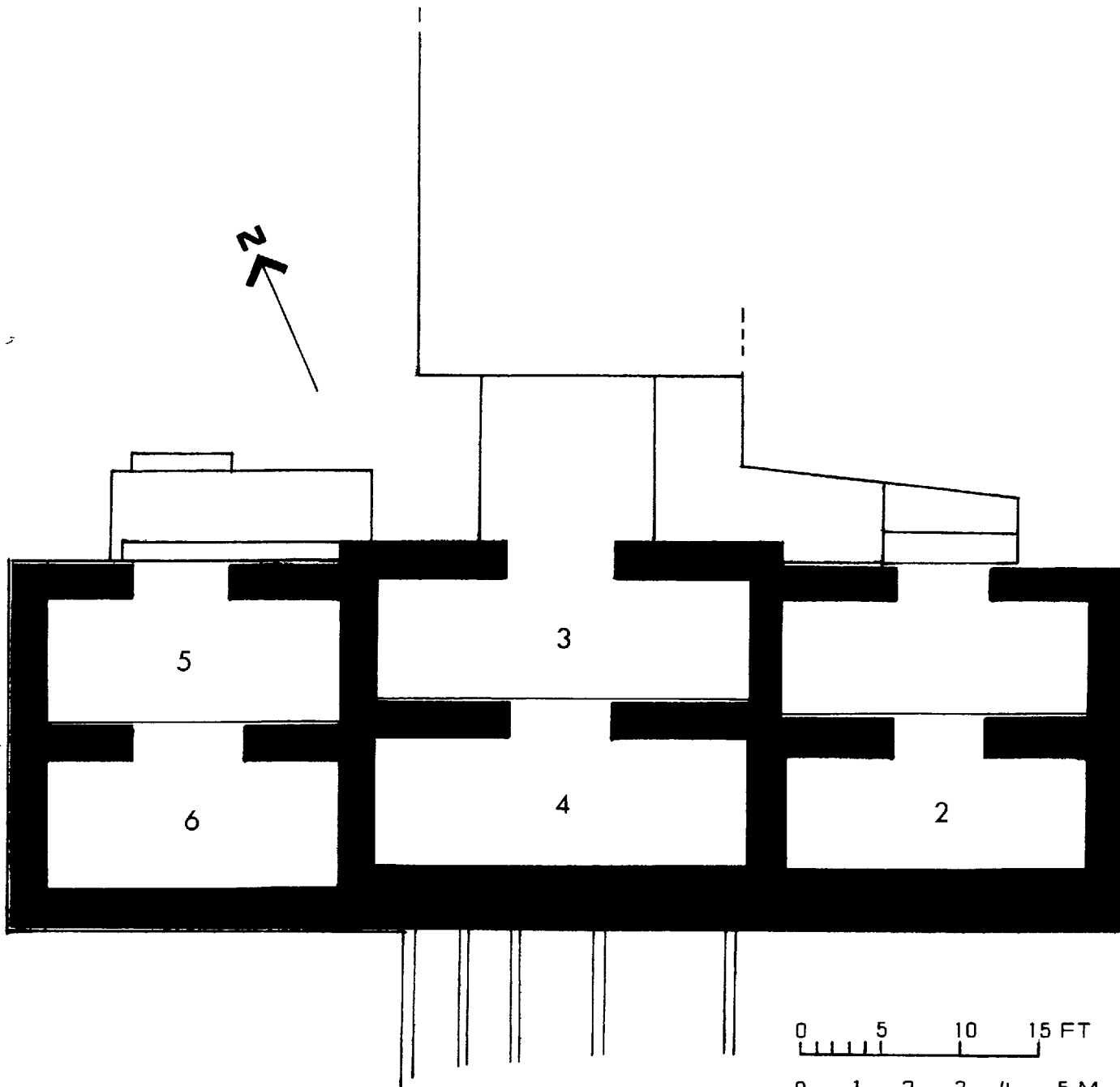
ROOM 6

Length: 5.77 m. (approx.).

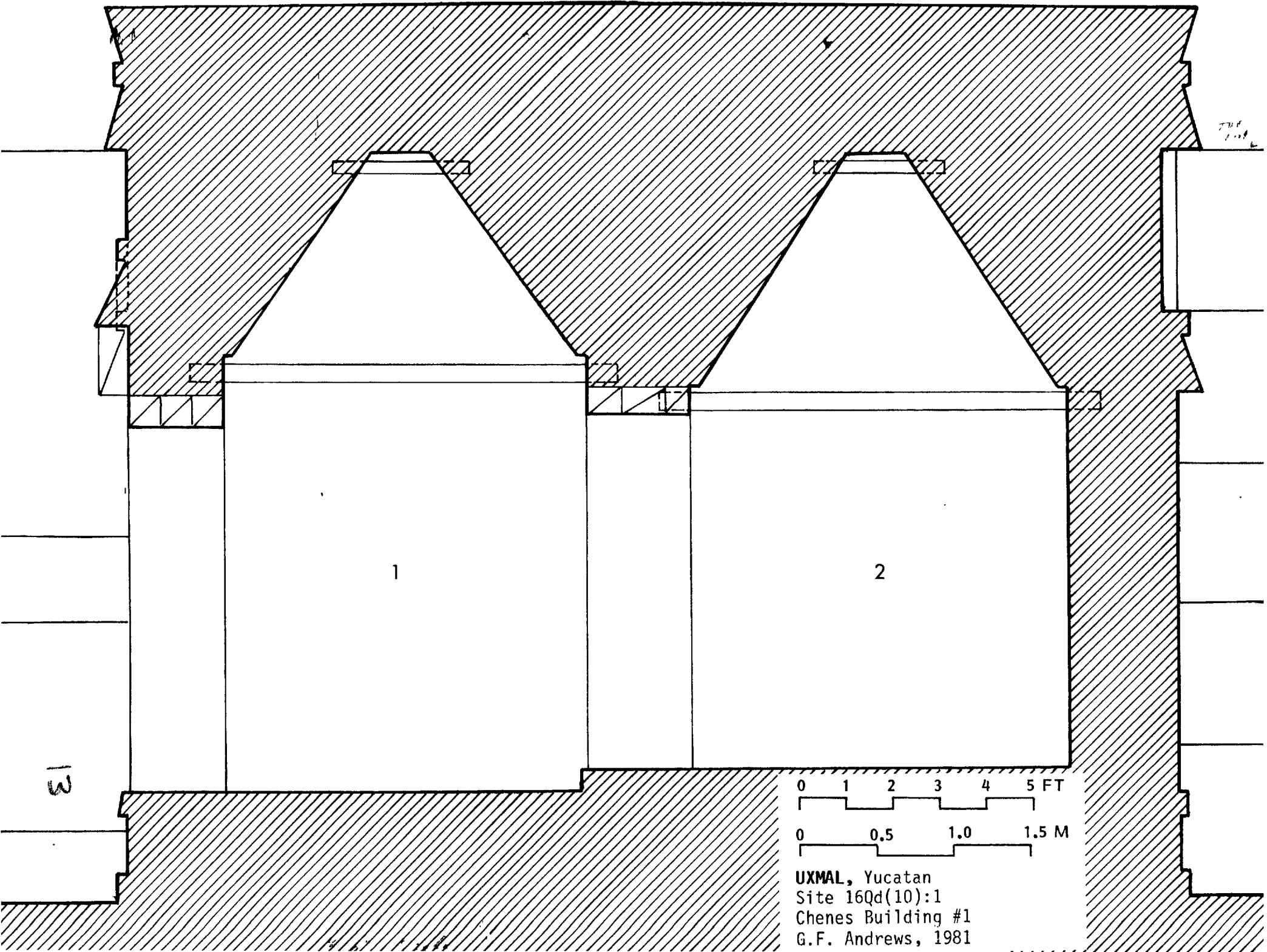
Width: 2.54 m.

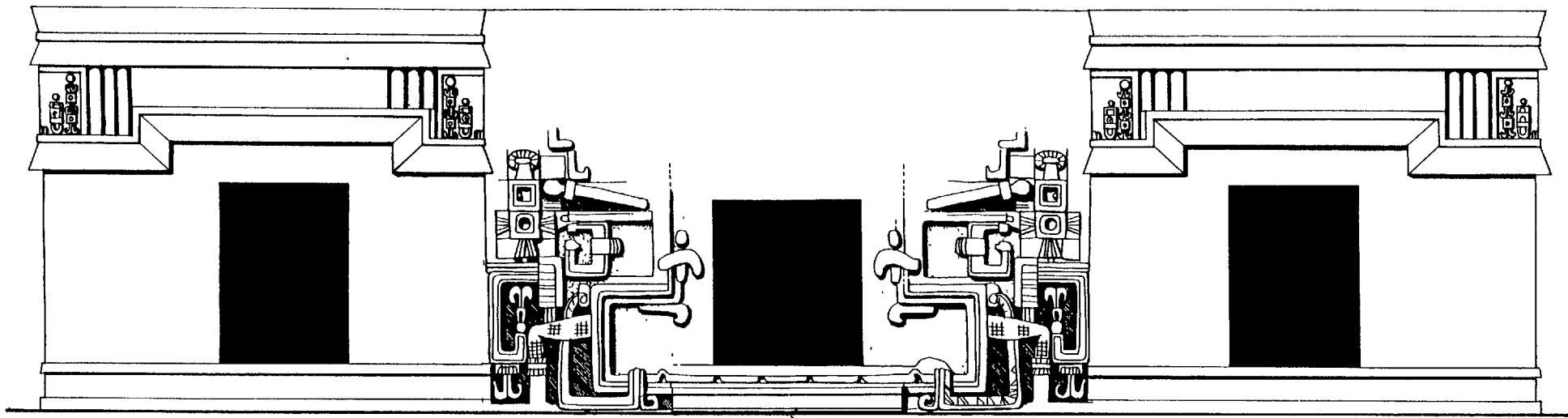
Doorway: Doorway in north wall, 1.83 m. wide.

Other: Floor of this room raised .15 m. above floor of outer room.



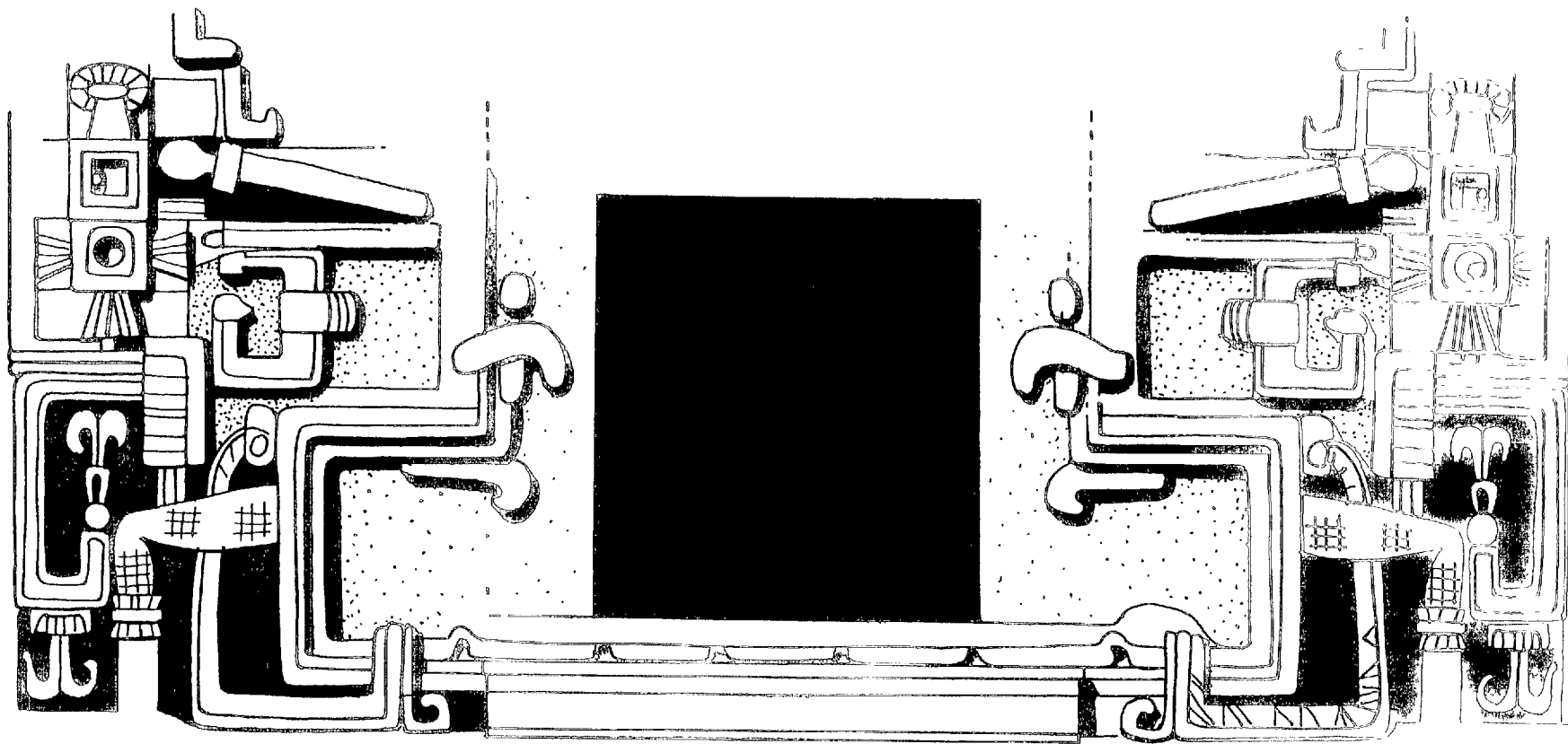
Uxmal, Yucatan
 Site 16Qd(10): 1
 Chenes Building #1
 G.F. Andrews, 1978





UXMAL, CHENES BUILDING NUMBER 1 - NORTH ELEVATION

G. Andrews 1995



UXMAL, CHENES BUILDING # 1
REMAINS OF ZOOMORPHIC MASK AROUND CENTRAL DOORWAY

CHENES BUILDING #2

SITE: UXMAL

NUMBER: 16Qd(10): 1

DATE: 2/24/1978

CHENES BUILDING 2 (West of Governor's Palace)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Small, range-type building with two parallel rows of rooms; rear rooms entered from front rooms. Main facade faced west but this facade, and most of vaults over front rooms now completely collapsed. Small doorways in north and south end walls of northeast and southeast rooms, in addition to doorways in central dividing wall. See sketch plan.

ORIENTATION: 293 degrees (magnetic), perpendicular to main (west) facade.

EXTERIOR DETAILS: Details below are for north and east facades.

BASE MOLDING No data - not exposed.

LOWER WALL ZONE:

Height: No data - lower portion covered with debris.

Stonework: Walls faced with small, roughly dressed blocks deeply tenoned into hearting.

Thickness: Exterior walls about .63 m. thick.

Decoration: None.

DOORWAYS:

Shape: Uncertain - doorways in main (west) facade fallen.

Jambs: Faced with medium sized blocks; similar to those used in wall facings.

Lintels: Wood lintels, now fallen, except doorway in north end wall of Room 2 (northeast room) which has stone lintel.

MEDIAL MOLDING:

Form: Two members. Large, apron-type lower member with narrow, rectangular member above.

Size: Overall height about .56 m. Lower member .46 m. high.

Projection: .16 m. at bottom.

Decoration: None.

UPPER WALL ZONE:

Height: .99 m. top of medial molding to bottom of cornice.

Stonework: Where plain, walls faced with 4 courses of roughly dressed blocks with squarish faces.

Decoration: Groups of 4 roughly dressed, plain colonnettes, alternating with plain areas (rear wall).

Other: Pollock (1970:fig. 104) shows mask snout (or fang) found in debris in front of main facade. We found no decorative elements of any kind in debris from front wall.

CORNICE:

Form: Three members. Lower two members same as medial molding with outward sloping coping member above.

Size: Overall height about 1.0 m.

Projection: .14 m. at bottom

Decoration: None.

ROOF STRUCTURE: None.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Classic Chenes style.

COMMENTS: The construction and architectural features of this building, wherever they are still preserved, are typical for the classic Chenes architectural style. Prominent among the Chenes features are asymmetrical vaults, where springlines on opposite walls are at different levels, lack of offsets in end walls at height of springline, moldings below capstones executed in stucco rather than stone, and stonework which employs small blocks, deeply tenoned into a rather thin semi-concrete hearting. Both medial and cornice moldings are very similar to those seen on classic Chenes buildings elsewhere, and the colonnettes used as decorative elements in the upper wall have Chenes, rather than Puuc profiles. Pollock (1970:83) believed that this building, as well as the adjacent Building 1, were the actual handiwork of Chenes builders, rather than copies. I agree that this is a good possibility, although there is no data at present to support this origin. What is clear, however, is that both Building 1 and 2 antedate the outermost layer of the Governor's Palace platform (west side), as great care was taken to allow both buildings to be continued to be used even though this required special shaping of the stepped sides of the great platform. See sketch plan showing relationships of Chenes Building 1 and 2 to platform of Governor's Palace.

SITE: UXMAL

NUMBER:

DATE: 2/24/1978

CHENES BUILDING 2 (West of Governor's Palace)

INTERIOR DETAILS: Room 2 (Rear room, north end)

DIMENSIONS:

Length: 5.44 m.

Width: 2.45 m. at north end.

WALLS:

Height: No data.

Thickness: North end wall .63 m. thick at doorjambs.

Stonework: Walls faced with 11 courses of small blocks with squarish faces, moderately well-cut.

Doorways: Doorway in north end wall .98 m. wide, stone lintel above. Doorway in dividing wall to front room (Room 1) 1.22 m. wide. Wood lintel above now fallen. Jambs faced with medium-sized blocks, larger than typical wall stones.

Cordholders: Finger-type cordholders both sides of doorway, about .30 m. below lintel. Lower cordholders 1.55 m. below upper holders.

Wall Openings: None noted.

Platforms: None.

Other: Jambs and lintel of doorway in north end of room covered with very smooth coat of plaster, no more than 1/2 cm. thick.

VAULTS:

Springline Offset: About .037 m. No offset in end walls at springline.

Height: Not recorded.

Form: Vault faces show slight curvature. Springline at same height on both east and west walls.

Stonework: Vault faced with wedge-shaped stones with beveled faces.

Capstones: Capstone span about .41 m. No molding below capstones.

Crossbeams: Crossbeams near ends of room, just below springline. Additional crossbeams just below capstones.

SITE: UXMAL

NUMBER: 16Qd(10): 1

DATE: 2/24/1978

CHENES BUILDING 2 (West of Governor's Palace)

INTERIOR DETAILS: Room 4 (Central room, rear)

DIMENSIONS:

Length: 8.74 m.

Width: 2.59 m.

WALLS:

Height: 2.46 m. floor to springline.

Thickness: Dividing wall to front room (Room 3) .63 m. thick.

Stonework: Walls faced with 11 courses of small blocks with squarish faces, set in even courses.

Doorways: Doorway to outer room 2.42 wide. Wood lintel above, now fallen.

Rod Sockets: None.

Cordholders: Small, finger-type cordholders high and low, both sides of doorway.

Wall Openings: None noted.

Platforms: None.

Other: About .71 m. above bottom of door lintel in dividing wall to front room, are recessed holes on both sides above jambs indicating former presence of wooden beam, .17 m. in diameter.

VAULTS:

Springline Offset: About .037 m. long walls only. No offsets in end walls.

Springline on east wall about .20 m. lower than springline on west wall.

Height: 1.78 m. (approx.) springline east wall to bottom of capstones.

Form: Vault faces show slight curvature.

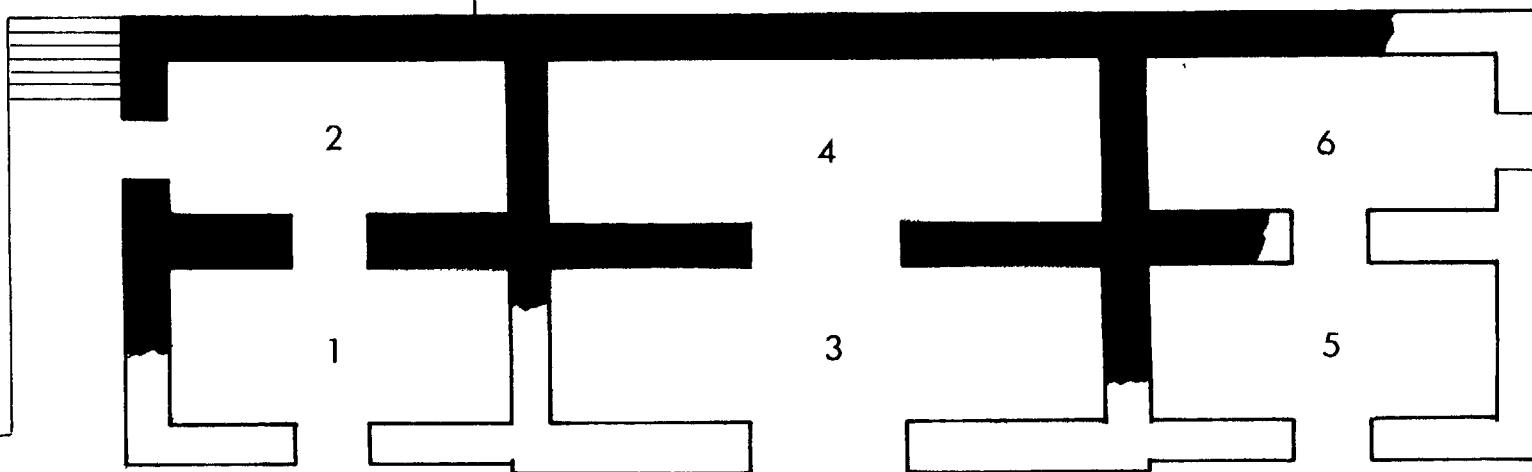
Stonework: Vault faced with Puuc-like wedge to boot-shaped stones.

Capstones: Capstone span about .40 m. Very small, crudely shaped molding below capstones.

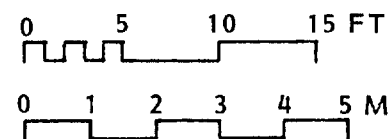
Crossbeams: Single crossbeams near ends of room, just below springline on east wall, but .32-.35 m. below springline on west wall.

Other: Vault is perfectly preserved. Doorway in north end wall has original stone lintel in place. Lintel about .23 m. thick.

OBSERVATIONS: Very typical Chenes stonework and vaulting.



UXMAL, Yucatan
 Site 16Qd(10):1
 Chenes Building #2
 G.F. Andrews, 1981



GROUP 24

SITE: UXMAL

NUMBER: 16Qd(10):

DATE: 2/25/1990

GROUP 24 (Group northeast of North Quadrangle of South Acropolis)

This group is situated a short distance northeast of the northeast corner of the North Quadrangle of the South Acropolis. It is not shown on any published map of Uxmal and I have seen no references to it in the extensive literature on Uxmal. I am calling it Group 24, since only twenty-three groups are shown on Tulane map. Based on our limited exploration, this group forms a good-sized quadrangle consisting of four mostly fallen vaulted masonry buildings arranged around all four sides of a nearly square courtyard measuring about thirty meters on each side. With the exception of the four-room building on the west side, all of the buildings have completely collapsed and are now nothing more than long mounds of debris. The building on the east side of the court extended another thirty meters to the north beyond the court, and a "north wing" of the building on the north side of the court ran parallel to the northern end of the east structure (see sketch plan). I have no data on the exterior of the four-room building on the west side of the court but a brief note indicates that the rear room at the northwest corner is still standing. See separate sheet for interior details of this room.

While all of the structures of this group are too destroyed to contribute substantially to our understanding of the architecture at Uxmal, the group as a whole does point up the fact that even minor groups and buildings at Uxmal, such as those described above, are considerably larger than the most important groups at smaller sites. For example, the structure on the east side of this group is represented by a mound over sixty meters long, whereas even the largest structures at most minor sites do not even begin to approach this dimension.

SITE: UXMAL

NUMBER: 16Qd(10): 2

DATE: 5/5/1981

GROUP 24 (West Building)

INTERIOR DETAILS: Room 4

DIMENSIONS:

Length: 6.70 m.

Width: 2.67 m.

WALLS:

Height: No data.

Thickness: Dividing wall to front room .71 m. thick.

Stonework: Walls faced with 7-8 courses of roughly dressed blocks, .20 to .25 m. thick. Surfaces somewhat irregular.

Doorways: No data. Round column in debris near doorway of outer room.

Rod Sockets: No data.

Cordholders: No data.

Wall Openings: None noted.

Platforms: None.

Other: Doorway of this room about opposite the narrow space in front of Chenes Building 1 at base of platform of Governor's Palace.

VAULTS:

Springline Offset: .07 m.

Height: 1.75 m., springline to bottom of capstone molding.

Form: Vault faces show slight curvature.

Stonework: Vault faced with 7 courses of wedge to semi-boot shaped stones. Springline course .23 m. high, and .46 m. deep, with good straight edge.

Capstones: Capstone span varies - .25-.30 m. Molding below capstones forms irregular line.

Crossbeams: Single crossbeams, near both ends of room just below springline. Additional crossbeams, at .61 m. intervals, just below capstone molding.

OBSERVATIONS: Construction technology and stonework seen in this building is fairly crude compared with technology and stonework in Late Uxmal style buildings.

SITE UXMAL

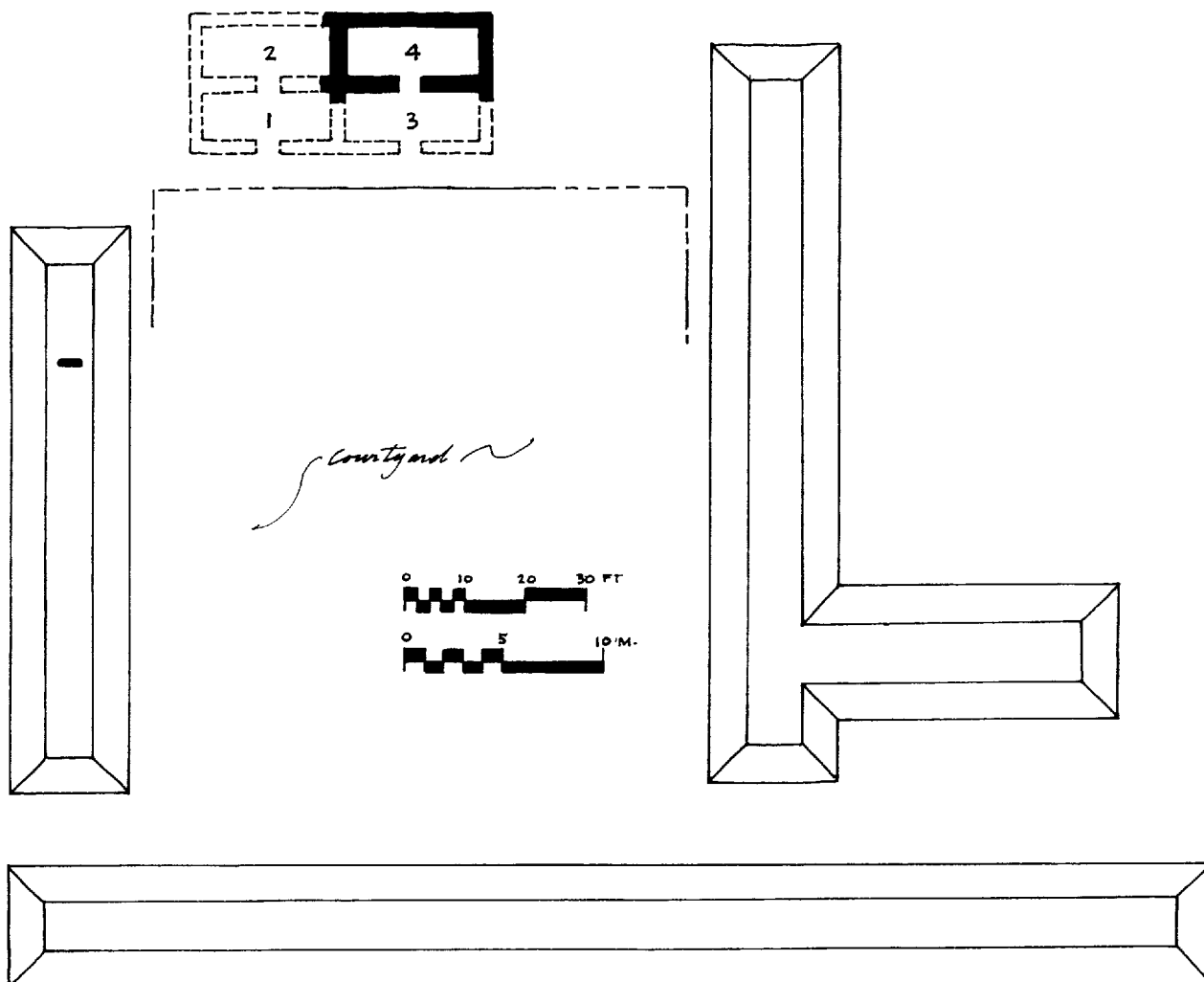
LOCATION YUCATAN

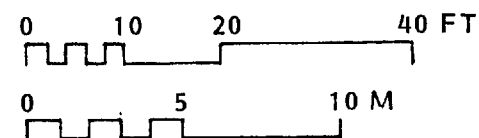
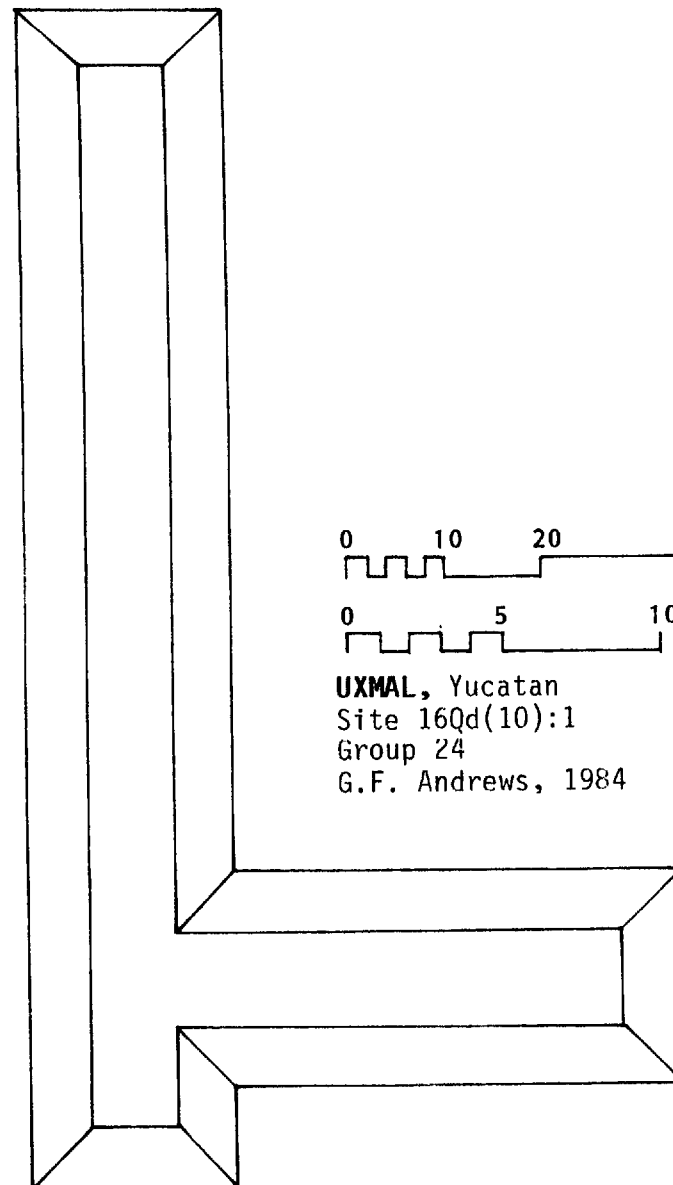
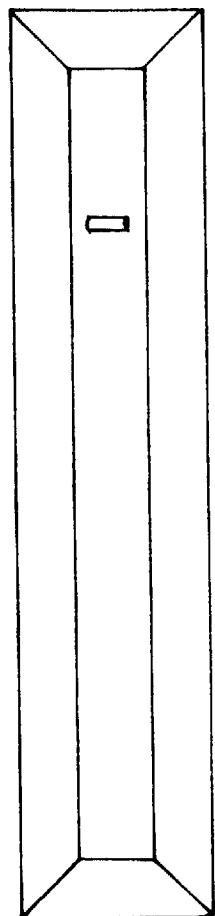
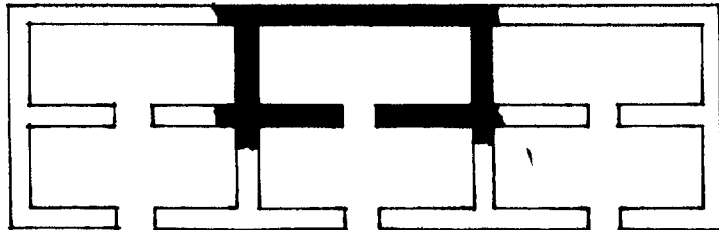
DATE 1/23/84

BUILDING GROUP 24

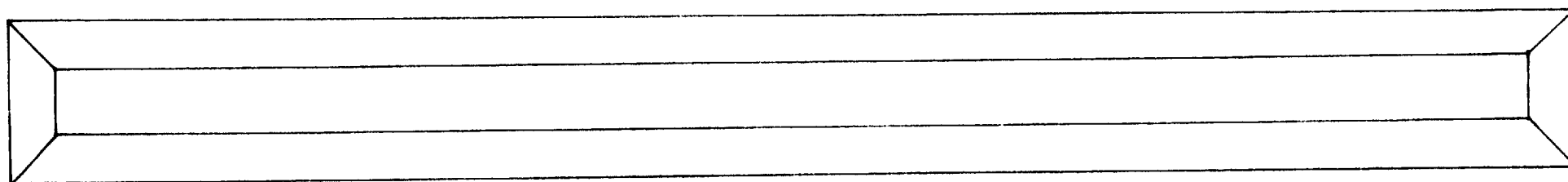
DRAWING SKETCH PLAN

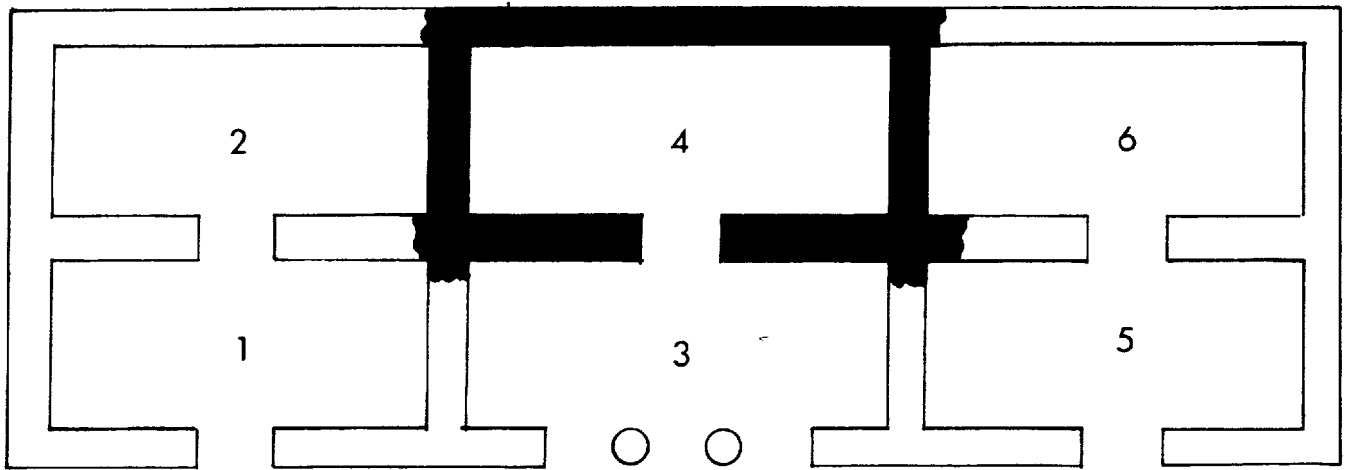
NO. P/04/4





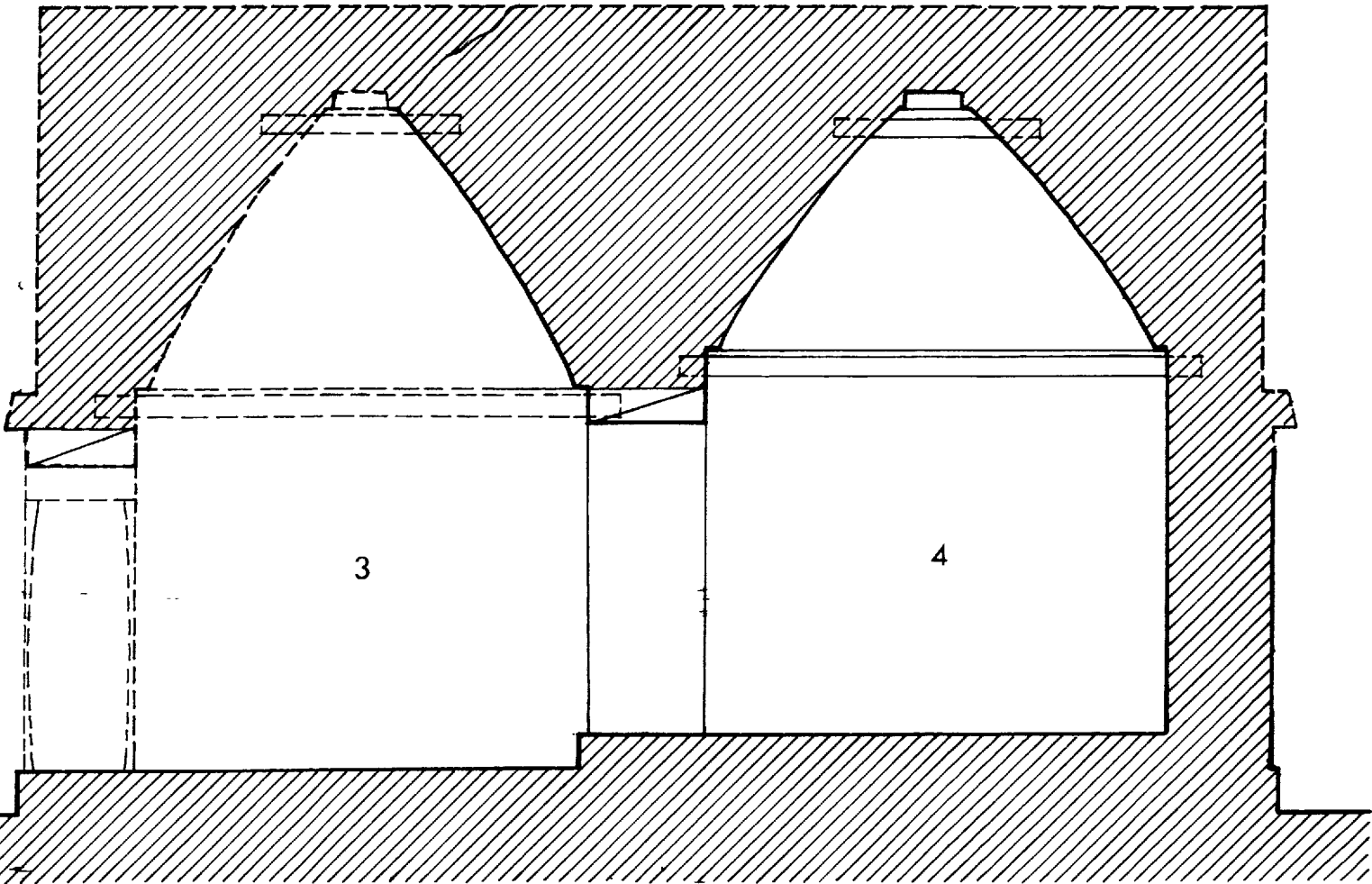
UXMAL, Yucatan
 Site 16Qd(10):1
 Group 24
 G.F. Andrews, 1984





0 5 10 15 FT

0 1 2 3 5 M



3.10' 11.00'

28

UXMAL, GROUP 24, West Bldg. plan.

1981

SOUTH ACROPOLIS (PALOMAS GROUP)

SOUTH ACROPOLIS (South or Pigeons Group)

The large complex of structures, terraces and courts which is here called the South Acropolis (Andrews, 1975) has variously been called the Southwest Group (Morley, 1910), Palomas Group, and South or Pigeons Group (Pollock, 1980). This huge complex, composed of a rising series of courts and their surrounding buildings, lies at the south end of the main axis of the central portion of the site. It faces north toward the North Group, which appears to mark the northern edge of the central core area (see map). It was first mapped and described in some detail by S.G. Morley (1910) and since then has also been studied by Seler (1917), Proskouriakoff (1946), and Pollock (1980). I also described and illustrated this complex in an earlier publication (Andrews, 1975), where I called it the South Acropolis because of its special, hierarchical organization. At that time, I was mostly concerned with its general organization and its relationships to other parts of the central core area, and made no effort to include architectural details of the individual buildings or sub-groups. For purposes of analysis and discussion, the larger complex can be broken down into four major components: 1) North Quadrangle, 2) North Terrace, 3) South Quadrangle, and 4) South Temple Group.

Most of the buildings in all four sub-groups are in a very poor state of preservation and sad to say, only the North Building of the South Quadrangle (House of the Pigeons) has actually been excavated and consolidated since Morley's study was made some eighty years ago. My data, though more recent than Morley's or Pollock's, is therefore still incomplete, but combined with the data obtained earlier by them, does provide a reasonably clear picture of the general architectural development of the South Acropolis, as far as building forms, architectural style and construction technology are concerned.

NORTH QUADRANGLE

The North Quadrangle of the South Acropolis consists of the courtyard, platforms, buildings, and stairway labeled A through F on the Morley Plan of the whole complex. (See copy of Morley plan included with this report). On the latter plan, Structure A is a long, low platform which marks the northern end of the quadrangle; platform is about 68.40 meters long, 13.68 meters wide, and .91

meters high. Structure B is the courtyard itself which measures about 50.46 meters north-south and 68.40 meters east-west. In contrast, Morley (1910) mistakenly said court is 69.92 meters square. Structures C and D are long, range-type buildings with two parallel rows of rooms which border the east and west sides respectively of the court. Both buildings stand on low platforms, about .91 meters high. Structure E is a low platform toward the south end of the court which once supported a masonry building, now completely fallen. Structure F is a large, projecting stairway at the south end of the court, which leads from the north court to the upper terrace behind the row of rooms at the south end of the court (Structure G), whose back wall acts as a retaining wall for the north side of the large terrace on the upper level (behind Structure H). See my plan of North Quadrangle, which differs in some details from the Morley Plan. For purposes of discussion, Structure A will be called the North Platform, Structures C and D the East and West Buildings, respectively, Structure G the South Building, and Structure E the Central Platform. See details below

NORTH PLATFORM

The long platform at the northern end of the North Quadrangle marks the north end of the entire South Acropolis complex. The lack of debris on top of the platform indicates that it did not support any kind of superstructure. While this platform does not function as a major visual barrier at the north end of the court, the change in level does effectively terminate the court and the raised platform provides a special place for ceremonial activity related to both the quadrangle itself and the long plaza stretching to the north.

EAST AND WEST BUILDINGS

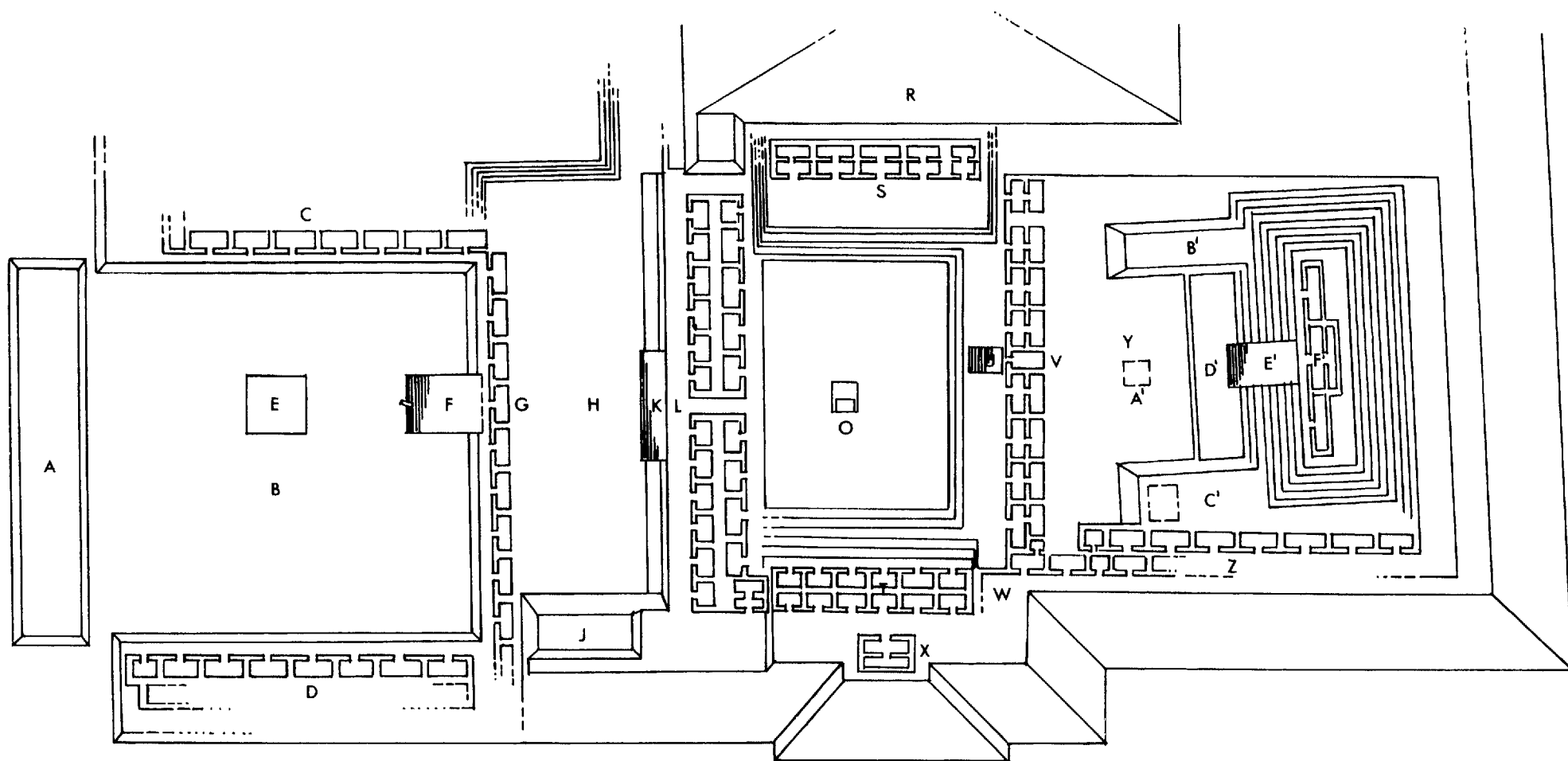
Both of these buildings are now mostly fallen and only bits and pieces of walls and vaults can now be seen poking up out of the surrounding debris. In spite of their advanced state of collapse, it is clear that both buildings included two parallel rows of rooms with doorways on opposite sides. The number of rooms in either building is uncertain but in those few cases where dimensions can be obtained, the rooms seemed to average 6.0 to 6.70 meters in length and 2.44 to 2.74 meters wide. There are a number of round stone shafts in the debris in front of these buildings which seem to be parts of doorway columns, in addition to a number of short colonnettes, of the kind that are normally found in moldings. Unfortunately, the front walls of both buildings have completely fallen and we were unable to record any data on facade details.

SOUTH BUILDING

The south buuilding is represented by a single row of rooms which forms the northern edge of the terrace (marked H on Morley Plan) which supports the Dove-Cotes Building. A stairway near the center of this row of rooms, with a narrow passageway below, gives access from the North Quadrangle to the upper terrace at the sound end. Once again, as most of the rooms are completely fallen, the total number of rooms is not known but those still partly preserved average 6.0 to 6.40 meters in length. As is the case for the East and West buildings, the facade of these rooms has completely fallen, and we were not able to record any exterior details. See separate sheet for interior data on Room 3 of this building.

CENTRAL PLATFORM

This low platform, which is roughly circular, is situated near the south end of the court, about 18.85 meters north of the low terrace in front of the South Building. The platform measures 9.22 meters north-south and 9.73 meters east-west; near the northern edge are the remains of a small building, about 5.17 meters long and 3.65 meters wide. The building is now completely fallen but in the debris are a number of short colonnettes, of the kind normally found in base or medial moldings. One vault stone in debris, with good wedge shape, measures .46 meters deep, .27 meters wide and .21 meters high on face. Between this platform and the stairway to the south, is the column altar described by Morley some eighty years earlier. This altar is about .48 meters in diameter at the large end and .71 meters long (see photo).



UXMAL - Sketch Map of South Acropolis (after Morley)

SITE: UXMAL

NUMBER: 16Qd(10): 1

DATE: 1/23/1984

STRUCTURE: NORTH QUADRANGLE, SOUTH ACROPOLIS

INTERIOR DETAILS:

EAST RANGE (Morley's Structure C)

ROOM 1 - No data - fallen.

ROOM 2 - No data - fallen.

ROOM 3

Length: 6.20 m.

Width: No data.

ROOM 4 - No data - fallen.

ROOM 5 - No data - fallen.

ROOM 6

Length: 6.46 m.

Width: No data.

SOUTH RANGE (Morley's Structure G)

ROOM 1

Length: 6.56 m.

ROOM 2 - No data - fallen.

ROOM 3 - No data - fallen.

ROOM 4

Length: 6.40 m.

Width: No data.

ROOM 5

Length: 6.61 m.

Width: No data.

ROOM 6

Length: 5.95 m.

Width: No data.

ROOM 7 - No data - fallen.

ROOM 8 - No data - fallen.

ROOM 9

Length: 6.40 m.

Width: No data.

WEST RANGE (Morley's Structure D)

ROOM 1

Length: 6.72 m.

Width: No data.

ROOM 2

Length: 6.70 m.

Width:

ROOM 3 - See separate sheet.

ROOM 4 - No data.

ROOM 5-8 - No data - fallen.

SITE: UXMAL

NUMBER: 16Qd(10): 1

DATE: 1/23/1984

STRUCTURE: WEST RANGE, NORTH QUADRANGLE, SOUTH ACROPOLIS

INTERIOR DETAILS: Room 3

DIMENSIONS:

Length: No data.

Width: No data.

WALLS:

Height: Unknown. Room partly filled with debris.

Thickness: No data.

Stonework: Walls faced with veneer-type blocks, only moderately well finished.

Doorways: No data.

Rod Sockets: No data.

Cordholders: No data.

Wall Openings: No data.

Platforms: No data.

Other: Exterior wall fallen and room partly filled with debris.

VAULTS:

Springline Offset: .02 m. at end wall.

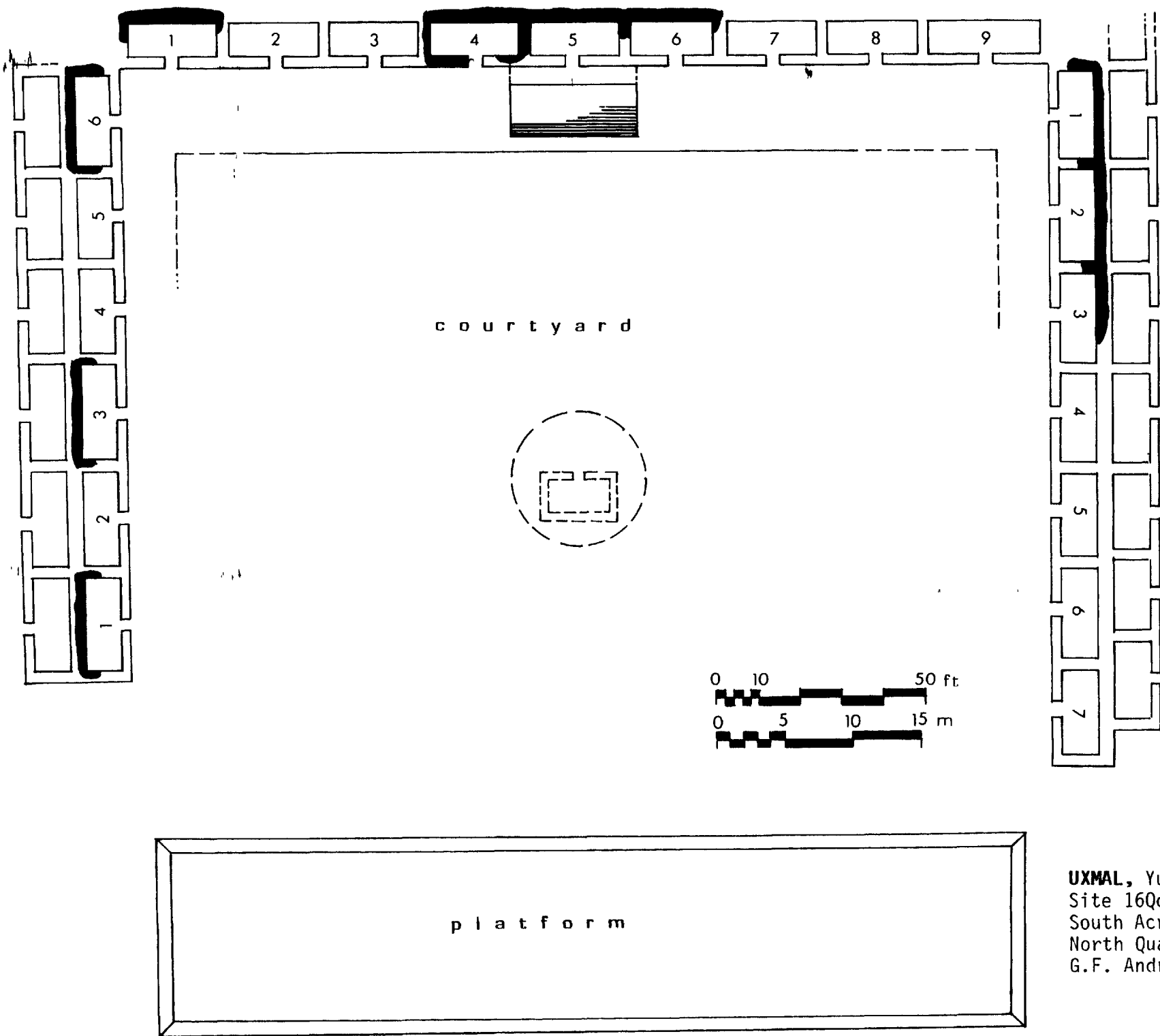
Height: Uncertain - partly fallen.

Form: No data.

Stonework: Vault faced with wedge-shaped, specialized stones, only moderately well finished.

Capstones: Capstones only roughly dressed. Molding below capstones .11 m. high. Capstone molding forms irregular line.

Crossbeams: Single crossbeams near both ends of room, .11 m. to center below springline, .25 m. to center from end walls.



UXMAL, Yucatan
 Site 16Qd(10):1
 South Acropolis,
 North Quadrangle
 G.F. Andrews, 1990

SITE: UXMAL

NUMBER: 16Qd(10): 1

DATE: 1/16/74 & 4/29/90

NORTH RANGE OF SOUTH QUADRANGLE (House of Pigeons, Dove-Cotes Building)

While the entire South Acropolis is sometimes called the Palomas Group or House of the Pigeons Group, this name actually applies only to the north range of the South Quadrangle of the South Acropolis, labeled M On the Morley (1910) map of this huge complex. This is the building with the serrated roofcomb which gives the building, or group, its name. While this monumental structure has been studied and photographed by countless observers, including early explorers such as Stephens (1843) and Maler (1893), it was first put into its proper context by S.G. Morley (1910) in his study entitled "A Group of Related Structures at Uxmal". Pollock (1980) included a brief description of what could be seen of this building in 1936, but it was not until 1968 that what still remained of the rooms, and the great central roofcomb, were partially excavated and consolidated under the auspices of INAH, Mexico with Cesar Saenz as project director (Saenz, 1968). Since that time, it has once again become overgrown with weeds, making exploration and recording extremely difficult. In 1974 I recorded what could then be seen of the rooms and the huge serrated roofcomb and this data is presented below.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Very long, range-type building with two parallel rows of rooms. Rooms open on opposite sides (north and south) with very thick dividing wall between. Twelve rooms on north side, divided into two wings of six rooms each; five rooms on south side of east wing and six rooms on south side of west wing, but note that the two rooms at west end on south side are at right angles to main axis of building, breaking symmetry on south side. Portal vault about 2.87 meter wide near center runs through entire building from north to south.

ORIENTATION: Morley (1910:14) gives bearing as north $10^{\circ}36'45''$ east. In May of 1990, I obtained a bearing of north 5 degrees east, using a Brunton compass.

EXTERIOR DETAILS: Exterior walls of both wings, both sides, now mostly fallen; no data on facades or facade decoration.

PORTAL VAULT

Length: 8.59 m.

Width: 2.87 m.

Height: Overall height about 4.10 m., floor to bottom of capstones.

ROOF STRUCTURE:

Description: High, serrated roofcomb divided into two sections horizontally. Lower section consists of long wall, with vertical slots and a three-member molding at top, which in turn supports nine triangular wall sections with stepped sides. Each triangular section had seven rows of slots with large solid area near bottom at center.

Location: Over thick central dividing wall between rooms on north and south sides.

Dimensions: Lower wall .76 m. thick at base and 2.03 m. high overall, including three-member molding at top. Slots are 1.37 m. high, and vary in width from .26 to .48 m. Triangular sections at top are .91 m. thick at base and vary in overall width from 7.36 m. for central section (over portal vault) to only 6.6 m. for those to left and right. Slots in upper sections about .20 m. wide and .56 m. high. Each row about .67 m. high overall, making total height for seven rows about 4.70 m.

Decoration: Large projecting stones and smaller stone pegs tenoned into faces of roofcomb on both sides which were undoubtedly used to support stucco sculpture or stone-and-stucco figures. Small traces of feathework still remaining probably from headdresses.

Stonework: Both lower and upper portions of roofcomb faced with moderately well-cut veneer-type blocks, similar to those seen in walls of rooms below.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Uncertain, since all upper facades are now completely fallen. Lack of decorative elements in debris, such as colonnettes or mask pieces, suggests that facades were plain similar to those seen on South Range of South Quadrangle or on West Annex, both of which have been classified as Classic Puuc Intermediate style buildings. Buildings in this style have medial and cornice moldings similar to those seen in both Colonnade and Mosaic style buildings but lack any kind of decorative forms in walls or in moldings.

SOUTH QUADRANGLE OF SOUTH ACROPOLIS

The South Quadrangle includes four large vaulted masonry buildings, marked M, S, T, and V on Morley plan, surrounding a central court marked N on this plan (1910, plate). Structure M is the famous House of the Pigeons, or Dove-cotes building, with the huge serrated roofcomb. Only the House of the Pigeons (North Range) of this group has been excavated and consolidated; the others are still in the same state as when examined by Morley eighty years ago. The low platform in the center of the courtyard (Structure O on Morley map) is now covered with weeds and can no longer be seen.

EAST RANGE

This is the building marked S on the Morley map. I have no data on this structure, which is almost completely fallen. See Morley (1910:11-12) for description and discussion of this building.

WEST RANGE

This is the building marked T on Morley map. I have no data on this badly fallen structure. See Morley (1910:12-13) and Pollock (1980:247-249) for description and details of this building.

SOUTH RANGE

This is the building marked V on the Morley map. As noted by both Morley (1910:15-17) and Pollock (1980:250-52), in its original form the South Range was divided into two wings by means of a central portal vault, which ran through the building from north to south. At that time, the South Range appears to have also formed the north side of another large quadrangle, which also included a single row of rooms on the west side and double rows of rooms on the south and east sides. The portal vault through the north building gave access to a central courtyard further to the north in the same fashion as the portal vault through the north range of the South Quadrangle gives access to the central courtyard of the South Quadrangle. At a later date, the open space of the central court behind Structure V was filled in, creating the present upper terrace (A' on Morley map) and a pyramid was built on the south side of the

terrace, which served as the substructure for the South Temple. At the same time, the stairway marked U on the Morley map was built, giving access to the entire South Temple Group, which includes Structures B'-G' on the Morley plan.

SITE: UXMAL

NUMBER: 16Qd(10): 1

DATE: 5/23/1990

STRUCTURE: HOUSE OF THE PIGEONS

INTERIOR DETAILS:

ROOM 1 - No data - fallen.

ROOM 2

Length: 4.89 m. (approx.).

Width: 2/97 m.

Doorway: 1.30 m. wide.

ROOM 3

Length: 4.87 m. (approx.).

Width: 2.97 m.

Doorway: 1.34 m. wide.

ROOM 4

Length: 4.91 m.

Width: 2.97 m.

Doorway: 1.31 m. wide.

ROOM 5

Length: 4.02 m.

Width: 2.97 m.

Doorway: 1.34 m. wide.

ROOM 6 - See separate sheet.

ROOM 7

Length: 4.19 m.

Width: 2.99 m.

Doorway: 1.36 m. wide.

ROOM 8

Length: 4.65 m.

Width: 2.98 m.

Doorway: 1.29 m. wide.

ROOM 9

Length: 4.68 m.

Width: 2.99 m.

Doorway: Fallen.

ROOM 10

Length: 4.61 m.

Width: 2.99 m.

Doorway: Fallen.

ROOM 11

Length: 4.65 m.

Width: 2.99 m.

Doorway: 1.29 m. wide.

ROOM 12

Length: 4.51 m.

Width: 2.99 m.

Doorway: Fallen.

ROOM 13

Length: 4.86 m. (approx.).

Width: 1.52 m.

Doorway: Fallen.

ROOM 14

Length: 4.86 m. (approx.).

Width: 1.98 m.

Doorway: 1.37 m. wide.

ROOM 15 - See separate sheet.

ROOM 16

Length: 6.31 m.

Width: 2.89 m.

Doorway: Fallen.

ROOM 17

Length: 5.42 m.

Width: 2.79 m. (approx.).

Doorway: Fallen.

ROOM 18 - See separate sheet.

ROOM 19

Length: 6.70 m.

Width: 2.92 m.

ROOMS 20, 21, 22, 23 - No data recorded. Mostly fallen and/or filled with debris.

SITE: UXMAL

NUMBER: 16Qd(10): 1

DATE: 4/30/1990

STRUCTURE: DOVE COTES BUILDING

INTERIOR DETAILS: Room 6 (North Side, East Wing)

DIMENSIONS:

Length: 4.38 m.

Width: 2.96 m. at doorjambs.

WALLS:

Height: Uncertain. Room partly filled with debris.

Thickness: Front wall .61 m. at doorjamb.

Stonework: Walls faced with small, roughly dressed blocks set in even courses.

Doorways: 1.33 m. wide. Jambs faced with large slabs full thickness of wall.

Lintel fallen - no data.

Rod Sockets: No data.

Cordholders: No data.

Platforms: No data.

Other: Most of outside wall and outer half of vault completely fallen.

VAULTS:

Springline Offset: .06 m.

Height: 1.72 m. springline to bottom of capstone molding.

Form: Vault faces have considerable curvature, particularly towards top.

Stonework: Vault faced with 7 courses of moderately well-dressed wedge-shaped stones.

Capstones: No data - fallen.

Crossbeams: No crossbeams in any location.

Other: Lack of crossbeams is very unusual detail.

OBSERVATIONS: Seler's suggestion that all rooms on this side were divided in half by addition of crosswalls added at a later date is not tenable. All crosswalls, with the exception of east end wall of what appears to be east end room on this side, seem to be part of original construction.

SITE: UXMAL

NUMBER: 16Qd(10): 1

DATE: 4/20/1990

STRUCTURE: DOVE COTES BUILDING

INTERIOR DETAILS: Room 15, South Side, West Wing

DIMENSIONS:

Length: 5.54 m.

Width: 2.94 m. at west end.

WALLS:

Height: 2.21 m. floor to springline.

Thickness: No data.

Stonework: Walls faced with 8 courses of small blocks, only roughly dressed.

Doorways: No data - fallen.

Rod Sockets: No data.

Rings: No data.

Wall Openings: None.

Platforms: No data.

Other: Room filled with debris (and wasp nest).

VAULTS:

Springline Offset: .05 m.

Height: 1.65 m. springline to bottom of molding below capstones.

Form: Vault faces have considerable curvature.

Stonework: Vault faced with 7 courses of wedge-shaped stones, moderately well finished.

Capstones: Capstone span .55 m. Molding below capstones about .11 m. high.

Crossbeams: Pair of crossbeams near ends of room, just below springline. Additional row of 4 crossbeams just below capstone molding.

Other: Most of outer half of vault fallen.

OBSERVATIONS: This is the only room where portions of both sides of vault are intact.

SITE: UXMAL

NUMBER: 16Qd(10): 1

DATE: 4/30/1990

STRUCTURE: DOVE COTES BUILDING

INTERIOR DETAILS: Room 18 (South Side, West Wing)

DIMENSIONS:

Length: 4.97 m. long.

Width: 2.74 m.

WALLS:

Height: Unknown. Room half filled with debris.

Thickness: Exterior wall .73 m. thick. Dividing wall to Portal Vault 1.18 m. thick.

Stonework: Walls faced with medium-sized squarish blocks only roughly dressed.

Doorways: No data - fallen.

Rod Sockets: No data - fallen

Cordholders: No data.

Rings: No data.

Wall Openings: No data.

Platforms: No data.

Other: Exterior (south) wall and south half of vault completely collapsed.

VAULTS:

Springline Offset: .06 m.

Height: 1.64 m. springline to bottom of molding below capstones.

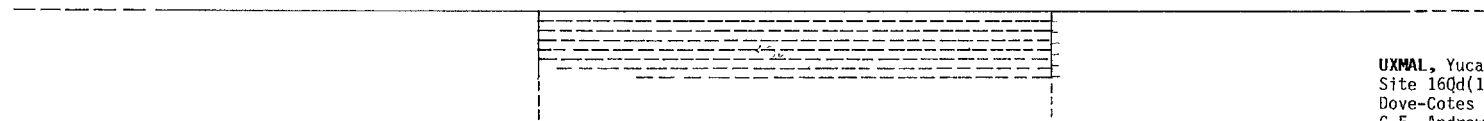
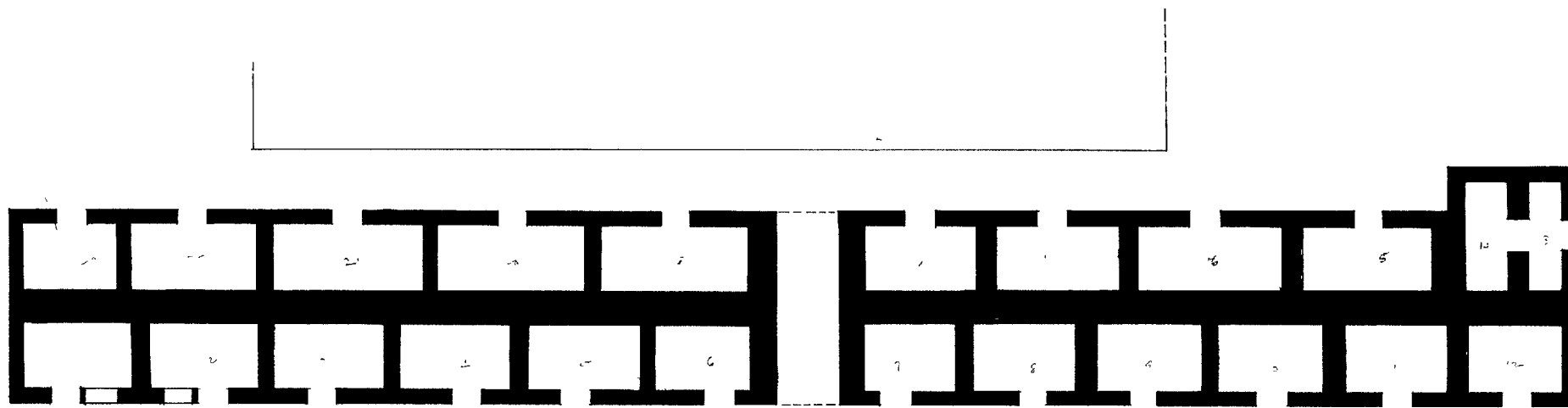
Form: Vault faces have considerable curvature.

Stonework: Vault faced with 7 courses of wedge-shaped stones, roughly finished.

Capstones: Capstone span about .33 m. Molding below capstones .10 m. high.

Crossbeams: No indication of crossbeams in any location.

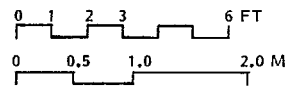
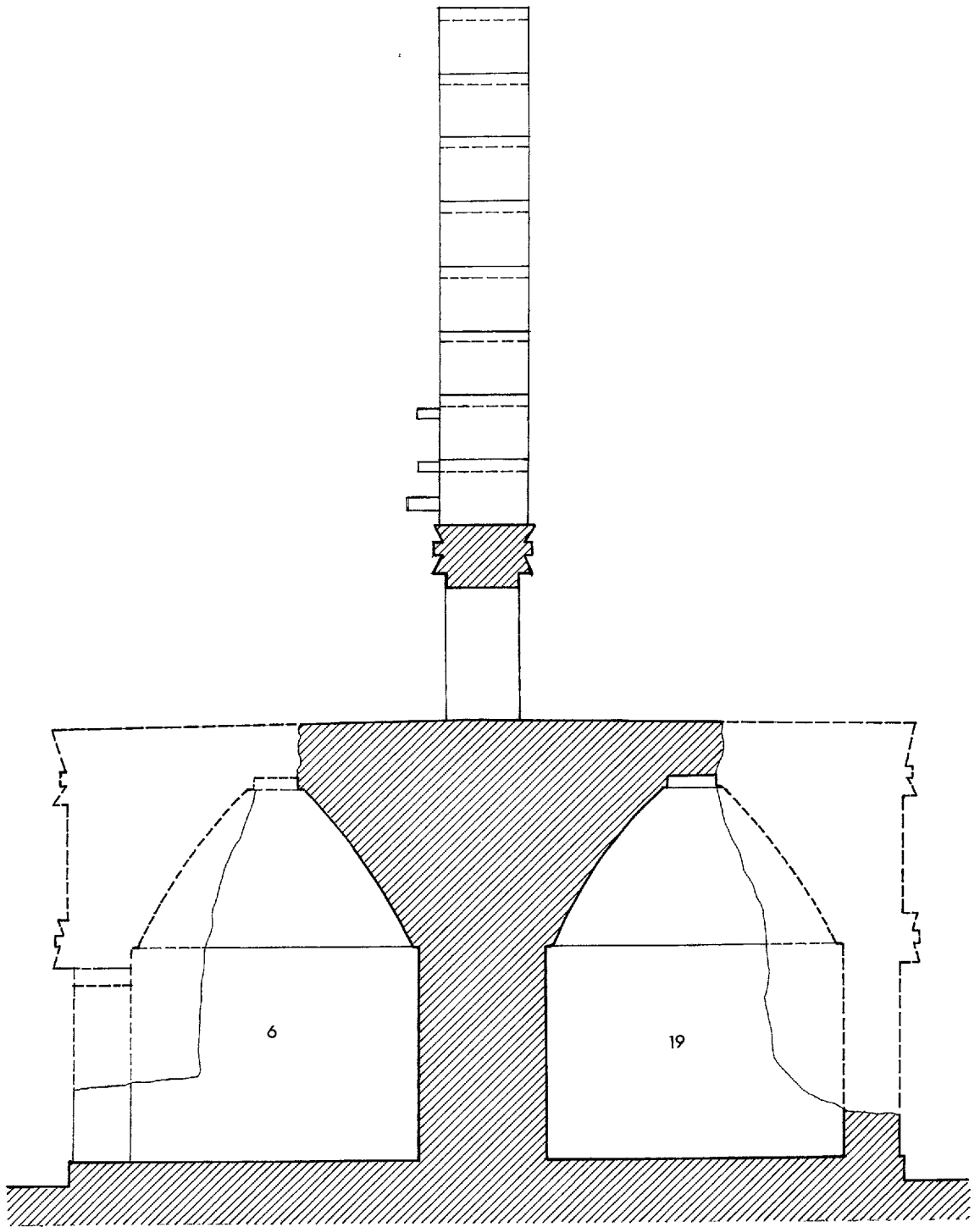
OBSERVATIONS: This is one of the few rooms I have seen at any Puuc site where there are no crossbeams.



UXMAL, Yucatan
 Site 16Qd(10):1
 Dove-Cotes Building
 G.F. Andrews, 1993

03 - Corridor S. A. 100's

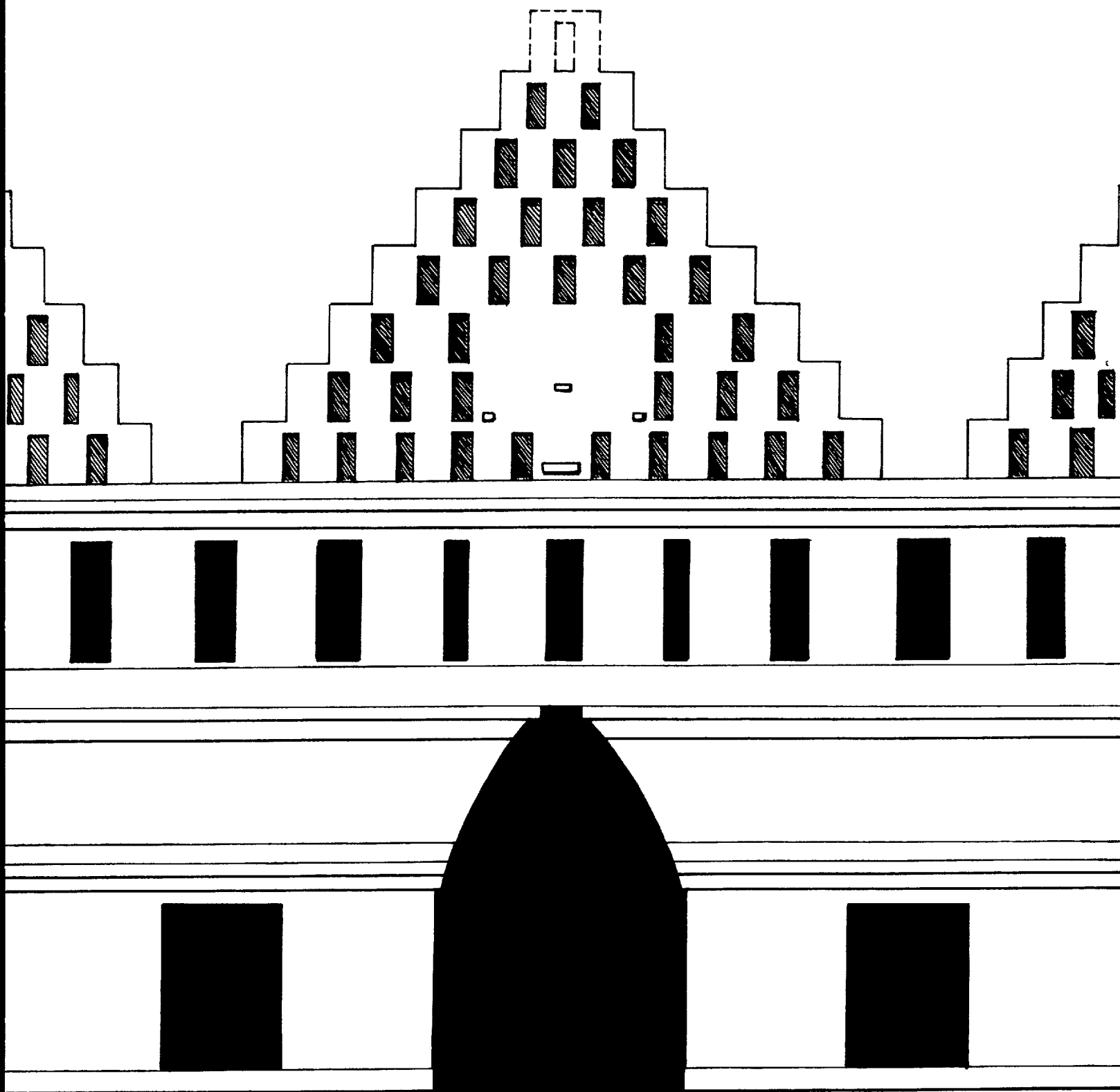




UXMAL, Yucatan
Site 16Qd(10):1
Dove Cotes Building
G.F. Andrews, 1984

19 Scale See Notes - Drawing Number 6 of 11

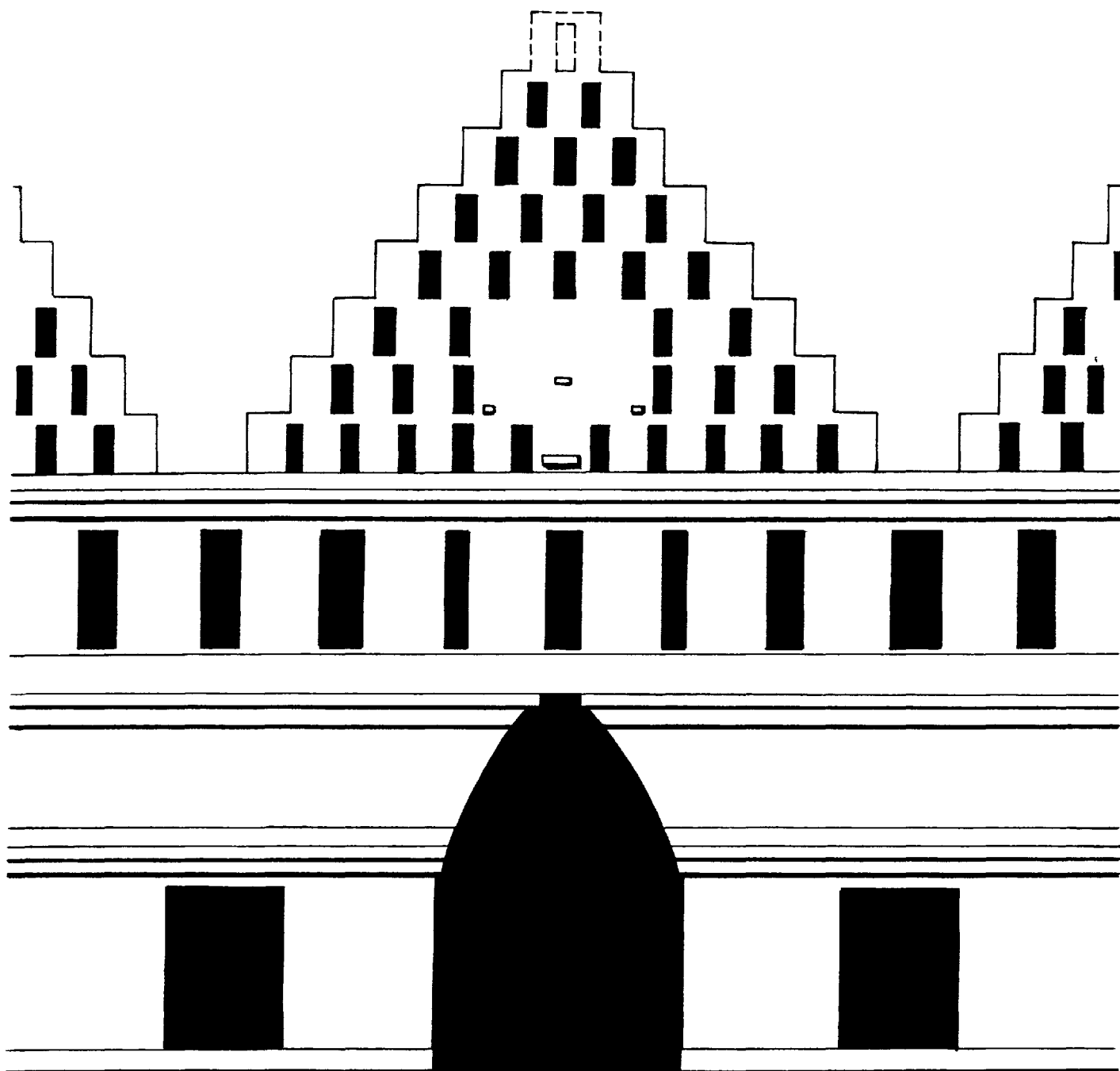
Uxmal
South of 12th, South of 12th
Drawing 12th



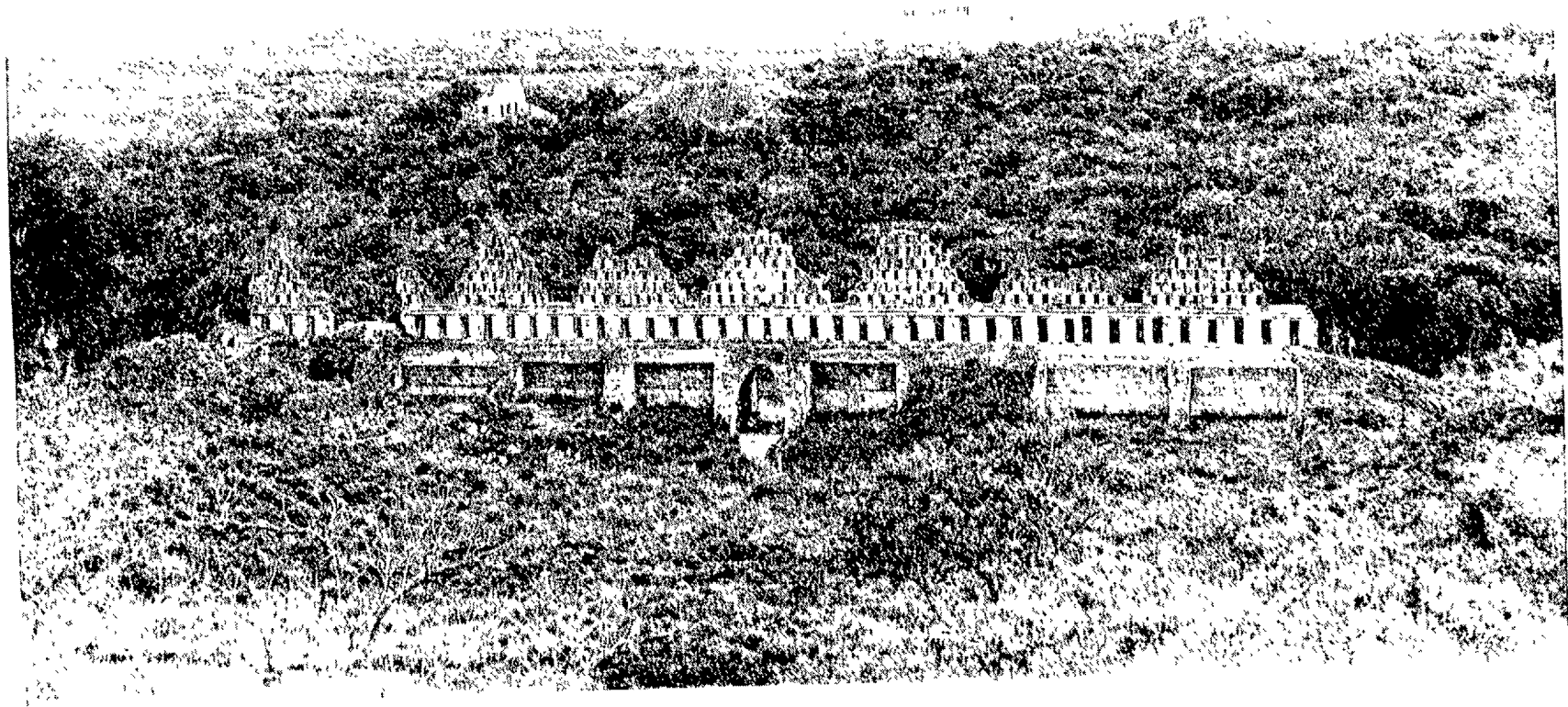
0 5 10 FT

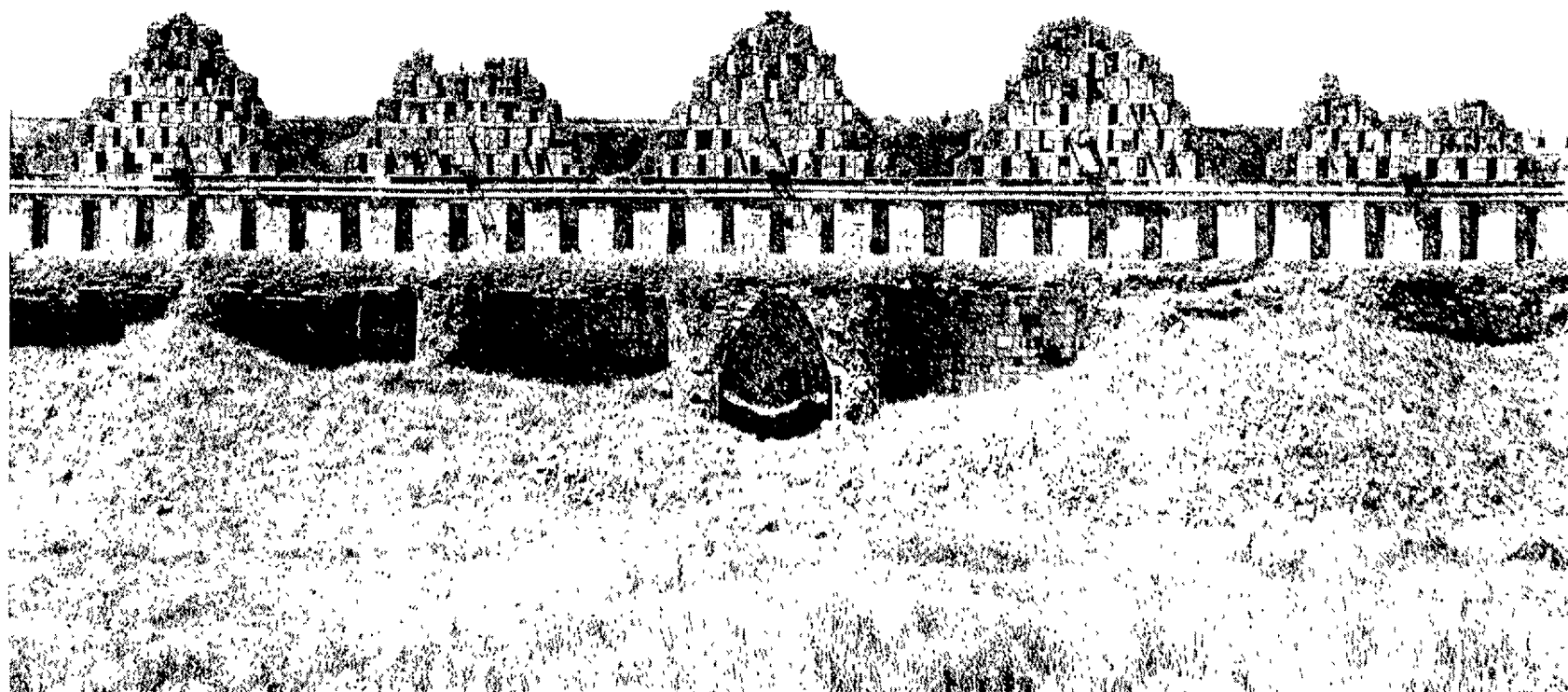
0 1.0 2.0 3.0 M

UXMAL, Yucatan
Site 16Qd(10):1
South Acropolis,
Dove-Cotes Building
G.F. Andrews, 1981



*UXMAL, DOVE-COTES BUILDING, SOUTH ACROPOLIS
CENTRAL PORTION OF NORTH FACADE*





(1)
(2)



SITE: UXMAL

NUMBER: 16Qd(10): 1

DATE: 1/16/74 & 4/30/90

SOUTH TEMPLE GROUP, SOUTH ACROPOLIS

As noted above, the terrace supporting the South Temple Group was created when the earlier courtyard behind the South Range of the South Quadrangle was filled in to the height of the roof of the South Range. Following this, the great pyramid-temple which now marks the southern end of the entire South Acropolis complex was built, together with two projecting platforms near the base of the pyramid on the north side, marked B' and C' on Morley (1910) map. According to Morley (1910:17) the pyramid supporting the South Temple is composed of nine terraces, each 1.22 meters high and each set back 1.22 meters from the edge of the terrace immediately below it. The terraces have vertical walls, which are faced with neatly dressed stones (see photos). A broad stairway on the north side gave access from the terrace level to the temple building on top. If Morley was correct in regard to the height of the individual steps of the pyramid (1.22 m.), its overall height must have been about 10.96 meters. I have no data on this pyramidal substructure, which is now even more fallen than when seen by Morley eighty years ago.

SOUTH TEMPLE, SOUTH ACROPOLIS (South Temple Group)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Long, four-room building; three rooms in line with very narrow room behind central room. Doorways open to north, overlooking entire complex. Portions of two central rooms still standing but end rooms mostly fallen.

ORIENTATION: Morley (1910) gives bearing north as 6°25'15" east but I recently obtained reading of 4.5 degrees (magnetic) with Brunton compass.

EXTERIOR DETAILS: Details below are for north facade (south facade and end facades similar).

BASE MOLDING

Form: Single member, rectangular molding.

Size: About .15 m. high.

Projection: .037 m. at top.

LOWER WALL ZONE

Height: 2.2 m. top of base to bottom of medial molding.

Stonework: Walls faced with 6 courses of well-cut, veneer-type blocks, set in even courses.

Thickness: Front wall, .67 m. thick at doorjamb.

Decoration: None.

DOORWAYS:

Shape: Rectangular.

Jambs: Faced with large slabs, full thickness of wall.

Lintels: Wood lintels, now fallen.

MEDIAL MOLDING:

Form: Two members. Apron-type lower member with projecting rectangular member above.

Size: Lower member .21 m. high, upper member .15 m. high.

Projection: .13 m. at bottom.

Decoration: None.

UPPER WALL ZONE:

Height: Uncertain - upper portion fallen.

Stonework: No data - outer facing fallen.

Decoration: No data.

CORNICE: Fallen. No data.

ROOF STRUCTURE:

Description: Single-wall slotted roofcomb (flying facade).

Location: Over front wall.

Dimensions: .75-.80 m. thick at base. Slots .25-.30 m. wide. Height unknown.

Decoration: Uncertain. Mostly fallen and outer face of remaining portion stripped off.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Classic Puuc Intermediate style (?)

COMMENTS: Only one course of upper wall facing still in place (rear wall, Room 1) and there is no indication of any kind of facade decoration in the form of colonnettes or mosaic-type sculpture. While this building must be "late" in terms of construction sequence of the South Acropolis, it may not be late in reference to construction sequence of whole site.

SITE: UXMAL

NUMBER: 16Qd(10): 1

DATE: 4/30/1990

STRUCTURE: SOUTH TEMPLE SOUTH ACROPOLIS

INTERIOR DETAILS: Room 2 (Central room, front)

DIMENSIONS:

Length: 9.70 m. (approx.)

Width: 2.03 m.

WALLS:

Height: Unknown. Room mostly filled with debris.

Thickness: Front wall .68 m. at doorjamb.

Stonework: Walls faced with small to medium sized veneer-type blocks, moderately well finished.

Doorways: Exterior doorway 1.81 m. wide. Jambs faced with large slabs full thickness of wall. Lintel fallen, no data.

Rod Sockets: No data.

Cordholders: No data.

Rings: No data.

Wall Openings: No data.

Platforms: No data.

VAULTS:

Springline Offset: .025 m.

Height: 1.44 m. springline to bottom of capstone molding.

Form: Vault faces have slight curvature.

Stonework: Vault faced with 5 courses of boot-shaped stones, moderately well finished.

Capstones: Capstone span .53 m. Molding below capstones .12 m. high.

Crossbeams: Single crossbeams near ends of room and at third points in first course of stones below springline.

Other: Central portion of vault completely fallen. Two end halves relatively well preserved.

OBSERVATIONS: Stonework in both vaults and walls is average Late classic Puuc but not as good as stonework seen in Late Uxmal style buildings.

UPPER WALL ZONE:

Height: 1.35 m., bottom of medial molding to bottom of cornice. .89 m., top of medial molding to bottom of cornice.

Stonework: Walls faced with 4 courses of well-cut, veneer-type blocks.

Decoration: None.

Other: Most of facing stones fallen.

CORNICE:

Form: Probably three members, same as medial molding.

Size: Uncertain - only lowest member still in place.

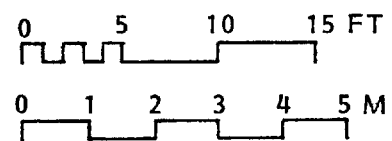
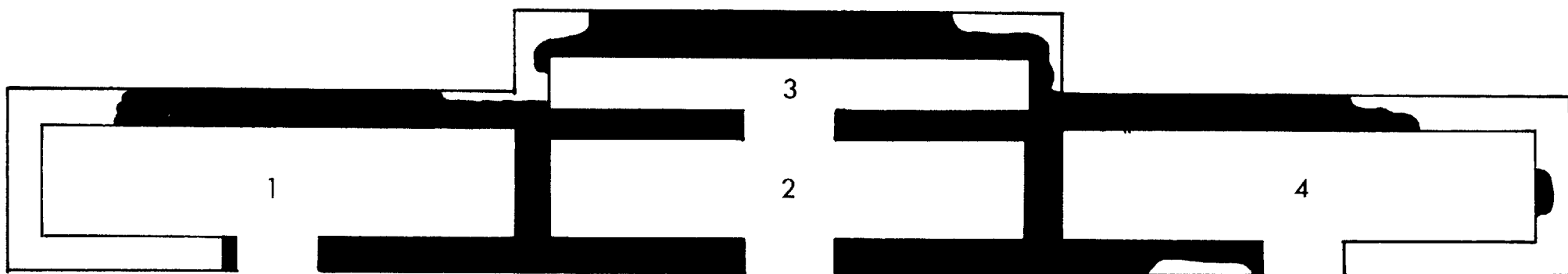
Projection: .15 m. at bottom.

Decoration: None.

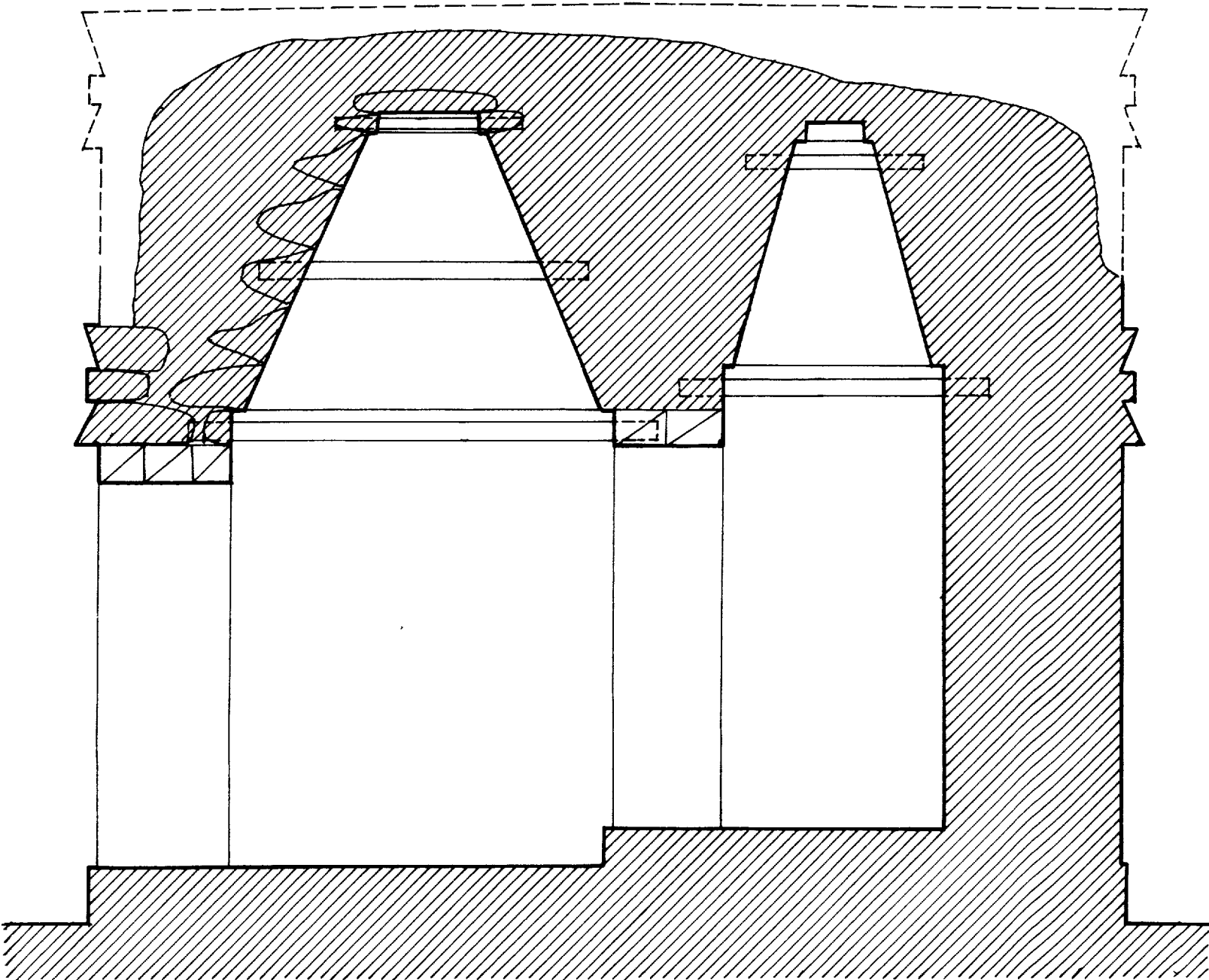
ROOF STRUCTURE: None.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Classic Puuc Intermediate style.

COMMENTS: Exterior of this building shows no decorative elements of any kind (mosaic or colonnettes) and is similar stylistically to several other buildings of South Acropolis which also lack decorative features in either lower or upper wall zones. Buildings of this kind, both at Uxmal and elsewhere, while clearly of Late Classic origin, have been classified as "intermediate" in style.



UXMAL, Yucatan
South Acropolis, South Temple
G.F. Andrews, 1984



0 1 2 3 4 5 FT
0 0.5 1.0 1.5 M

UXMAL, Yucatan
South Acropolis, South Temple
G.F. Andrews, 1983

SITE: UXMAL

NUMBER: 16Qd(10): 1

DATE: 2/22/1978

SOUTH ACROPOLIS, WEST ANNEX (STRUCTURE X)

INTERIOR DETAILS: Room 1

DIMENSIONS:

Length: 8.59 m.

Width: 2.11 m.

WALLS:

Height: 2.31 m., floor to springline.

Thickness: Front wall .51 m. thick, end walls .53 m. thick. Dividing wall to rear room .47 m. thick at doorjamb.

Stonework: Walls faced with small blocks with squarish faces. Blocks are well-cut and evenly coursed.

Doorways: Jambs of exterior doorway now fallen. Wood lintels above, now fallen.

Rod Sockets: No data.

Cordholders: No data.

Rings: Small stone rings, high and low, both sides of doorway.

Wall Openings: Small holes roughly centered in end walls, .26 m. to center below springline. Additional holes in front wall near ends of room, just below medial molding.

Platforms: None.

Other: Rear room raised about .19 m. above floor of this room. Top of step continues as molding along base of rear wall.

VAULTS:

Springline Offset: .06 m.

Height: 1.09 m., springline to bottom of molding below capstones.

Form: Vault faces have straight sides.

Stonework: Vault faced with 5 courses of well-cut wedge to boot-shaped stones. Faces carefully beveled and one such stone measures .17 m. high and .30 m. wide.

Capstones: Capstone span about .58 m. Molding below capstones .12 m. high.

Crossbeams: Pairs of crossbeams, .38 m. on center, near both ends of room, just above vault springline. Smaller crossbeams, 1.62 m. on centers, just below capstone molding. Crossbeam sockets are neatly cut, round holes.

OBSERVATIONS: Construction technology and stonework seen in this building is better than in other buildings of South Acropolis. Wall stones are more carefully faced, more evenly coursed, and smaller than wall facing stones in other acropolis buildings. Vault stones also more carefully cut and beveled than typical vault stones in nearby buildings.

SITE: UXMAL

NUMBER: 16Qd(10): 1

DATE: 2/22/1978

SOUTH ACCROPOLIS, WEST ANNEX (STRUCTURE X)

INTERIOR DETAILS: Room 2

DIMENSIONS:

Length: 8.59 m.

Width: 2.52 m.

WALLS:

Height: 2.32 m. (approx.) floor to springline.

Thickness: Dividing wall to front room .47 m. thick at doorjamb. Rear wall .46 m. thick.

Stonework: Walls faced with small, well-cut veneer-type blocks set in even courses.

Doorways: Jambs faced with full width slabs, not very high. Wood lintels above, now fallen.

Rod Sockets: No data.

Cordholders: Small finger-type cordholders about .07 m. on diagonal from upper rings.

Rings: Vertical stone rings, high and low, both sides of doorway. Upper rings just below springline.

Wall Openings: Small holes in end walls, about .30 m. to center below springline.

Platforms: None.

Other: Floor of this room raised .19 m. above floor of front room.

VAULTS: Vault over this room same as front room, except for greater width.

Other: Springline of vault about .17 m. higher than springline of front room.

UPPER WALL ZONE:

Height: 1.35 m., bottom of medial molding to bottom of cornice. .89 m. top of medial molding to bottom of cornice.

Stonework: Walls faced with 4 courses of well-cut, veneer-type blocks.

Decoration: None.

Other: Most of facing stones fallen.

CORNICE:

Form: Probably 3 members, same as medial molding.

Size: Uncertain - only lowest member still in place.

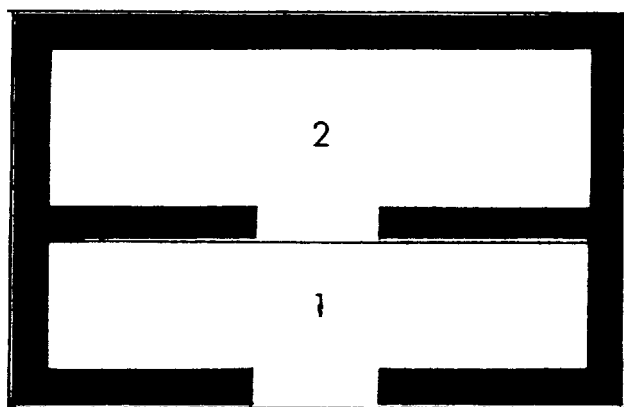
Projection: .15 m. at bottom.

Decoration: None.

ROOF STRUCTURE: None.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Classic Puuc Intermediate style.

COMMENTS: Exterior of this building shows no decorative elements of any kind (mosaic or colonnettes) and is similar stylistically to several other buildings of South Acropolis which also lack decorative features in either lower or upper wall zones. Buildings of this kind, both at Uxmal and elsewhere, while clearly of Late Classic origin, have been classified as "intermediate" in style.



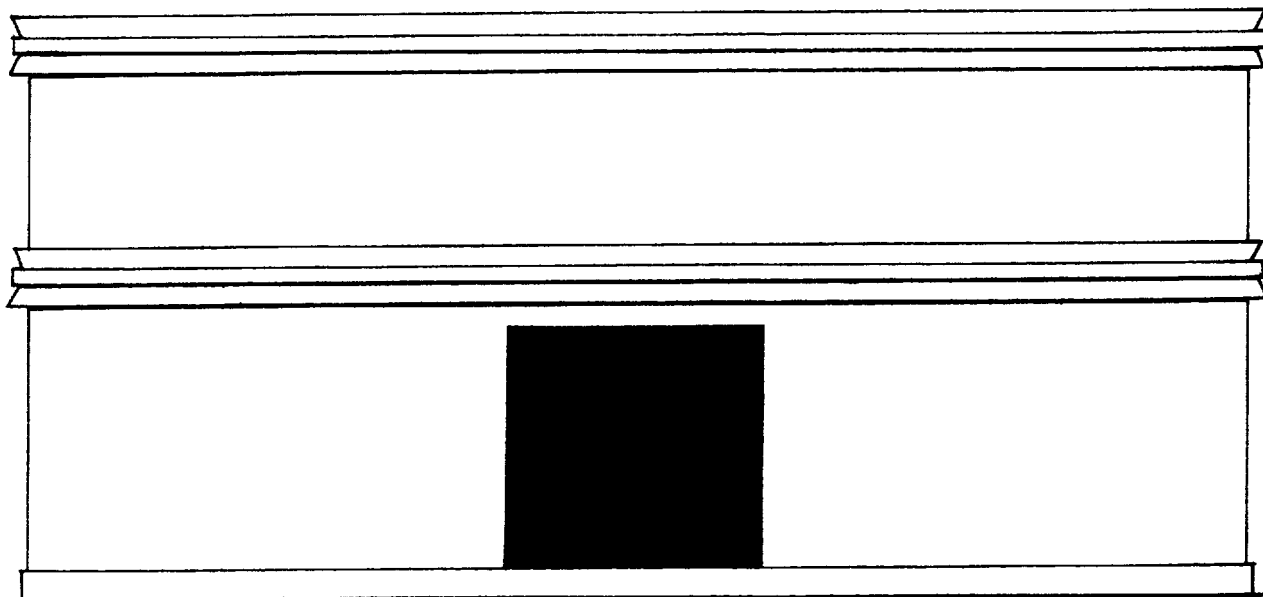
0 5 10 15 FT

 A horizontal scale bar with four segments. The first segment is labeled '0', the second '5', the third '10', and the fourth '15'. The unit 'FT' is at the end.

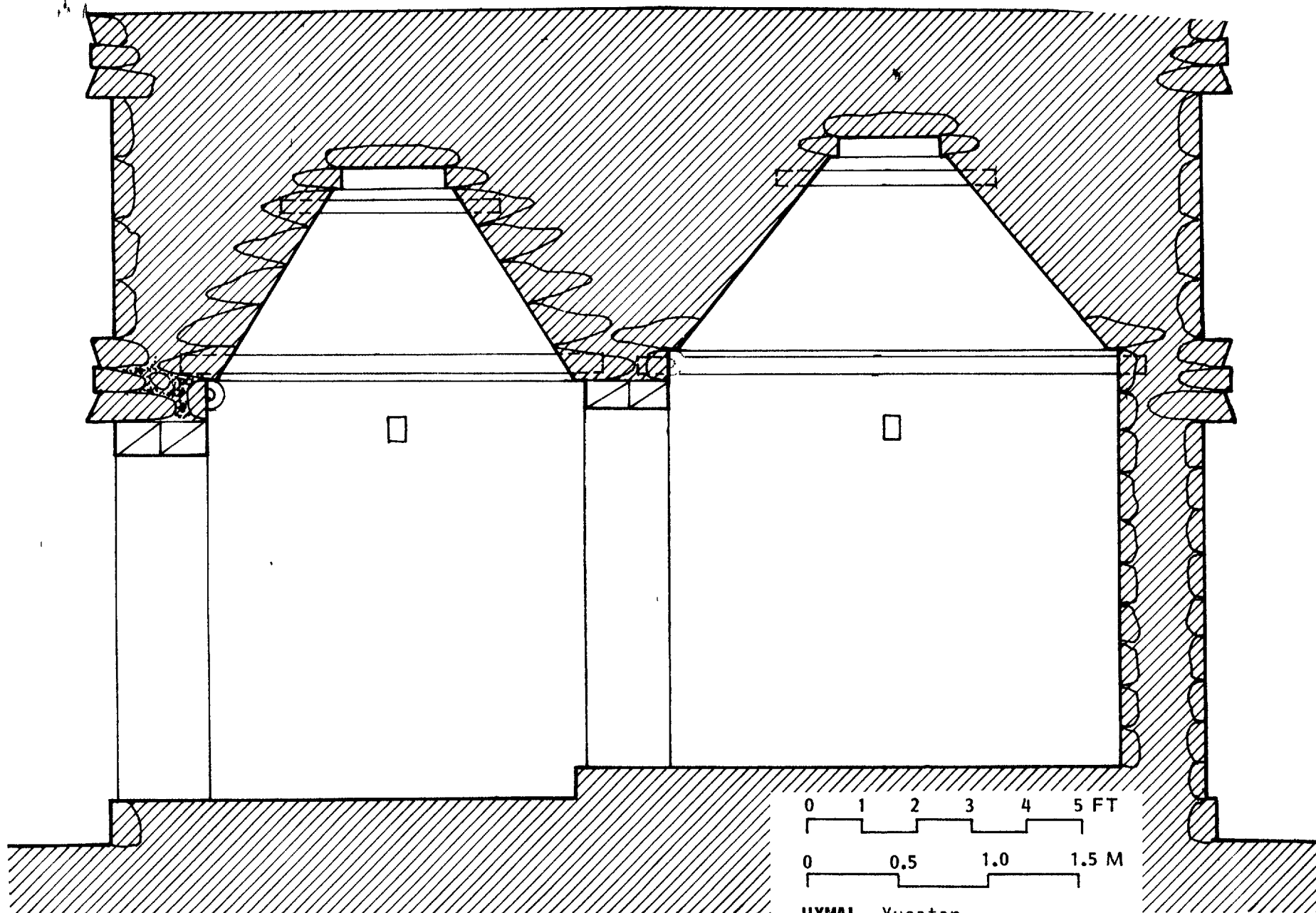
0 1 2 3 4 5 M

 A horizontal scale bar with six segments. The first segment is labeled '0', the second '1', the third '2', the fourth '3', the fifth '4', and the sixth '5'. The unit 'M' is at the end.

UXMAL, Yucatan
 South Acropolis, West Annex
 G.F. Andrews, 1983



67



UXMAL, Yucatan
 Site 16Qd(10):1
 South Acropolis,
 West Annex
 G.F. Andrews, 1981

G R E A T P Y R A M I D

GREAT PYRAMID (GREAT SOUTH PYRAMID)

The great structure, the most massive and highest at Uxmal, is situated immediately southwest of the Governor's Palace and east of the South Acropolis (Dove-cotes Group). Seler (1917:27-32) discussed what decorative elements could be seen in his time and Pollock (1980:244), who examined the pyramid in 1936, reported that at that time, it presented "only an amorphous appearance, its sides strewn with loose rocks and covered with rank vegetation". In 1941, S.G. Morley (C.I.W.) carried out limited excavations near the top of the pyramid, which he later described in a brief article (Morley, 1942). In 1973, the north face of the pyramid and the rooms on the upper level on this side were excavated and partly restored under the auspices of INAH, Mexico, with Cesar Saenz as project director. These excavations showed that with several small, but important, exceptions, the analysis and drawings made many years earlier by Morley were essentially correct. See Pollock (1980, fig. 426) for plan and section made by Morley, for comparison with revised plan included in present report.

According to Morley, the pyramid measured ninety-six meters north-south, and eighty meters east-west, and 27.5 meters high from the north base to the summit. Also, according to Morley, the pyramid proper had eleven terraces on the north side but only ten on the south side, due to the southward rise of the natural terrain. As excavated, however, the pyramid shows only nine terraces on the north side (south side not excavated) and there is no real indication of the row of four rooms at the northwest corner of the pyramid as shown in Morley's plan, and described by him as the earliest part of the pyramid now visible (see photo). I suspect that the problem here is that Morley was simply mistaken in his location of these rooms, which must be at a lower elevation and further to the west.

On top of the highest terrace of the pyramid is a platform 1.13 meters high, whose outer face is decorated with mosaic style sculpture featuring colonnettes, frets, and latticework (see photos and detail). This platform supports a large superstructure, which has ranges of rooms on all four sides of

a huge, solid central core. There were five rooms on the north side, but only one each on the east, west and south sides, the latter near the center of the long mostly solid facades. Both the upper and lower wall zones of the northern rooms carried elaborate mosaic-type sculpture, including long-nosed corner masks, while only the upper wall zones on the other sides were decorated; in this case with large frets, oversized latticework, and perhaps masks, although there are only faint traces of the latter forms. The solid central core behind the rooms rises another 1.7 meters above the roof level of these rooms.

At a later date, an additional row of three rooms was built in front of the three original central rooms on the north side. At the same time, the floor level of the original central room was raised one meter above the floor of the new outer room, thus providing space for the long-nosed mask which can now be seen in front of the doorway to the older central room. The lower wall zone of the north facade of this addition (Rooms 9-11) is completely filled with elaborate mosaic type sculpture of a different design than the sculpture seen on the north facade of the original rooms (Rooms 1-5). The former consists of a series of large frets combined with shallow relief sculptures of quetzal (?) birds on step-like blocks, the whole divided into rectangular sections by vertical and horizontal moldings whose faces are carved with intertwined serpent bodies. In addition, there are stacked, long-nosed masks at the northeast and northwest corners (see photos and drawings). The lower wall zone of the older facade also included long-nosed corner masks, with the main lower wall areas filled with frets, X-shapes, and numerous small, round and square faced blocks carved with geometric designs and occasional faces. See Pollock (1980, fig. 428) for details of these carved designs. The sculpture in the upper wall zones of the original northern rooms has now mostly fallen and the designs are not clear.

The final chapter of the history of the Great Pyramid was written when the rooms on the upper level were filled with dry-laid rubble, their doorways filled in, and the entire pyramid covered with a layer of rubble, about 1.5 meters thick, which also had a stepped form. According to Morly (1942: 252), the stairways on both the north and south sides were retained after this enlargement of the pyramid, of necessity now inset rather than projecting. It is possible that the enlarged pyramid was intended to serve as the substructure for a new building at the top but if so, building activity ceased and the site was abandoned before this could occur.

GREAT PYRAMID - SUBSTRUCTURE

During the excavations of 1973, only the northernmost face of the pyramid and the broad stairway on the north side were excavated and restored. The stairway, which is in two runs, is 23.77 meters wide at the bottom and about 23.59 meters at the top. The lowest run consists of fifty-one risers which lead to a narrow platform, 1.36 meters wide, where a second run with fourteen risers leads to the top of the pyramid proper. It should also be noted that there is a projecting platform near the top of the second run, whose top is even with the top of the second riser from the top. This platform is 6.81 meters wide and its north face is undecorated. The sides of the stepped pyramid, which are divided into nine terraces, have inward sloping faces, with a three member molding at the top (see details). Morley (1942: 251) gave the height of each step as 1.42 meters but as restored, the heights vary from 1.37 meters to over 1.83 meters.

GREAT PYRAMID - SUPERSTRUCTURE

During the excavations of 1973, the north, east, and west facades of the three-room addition to the original superstructure (Rooms 9-11) and the north facades of the end rooms (Rooms 1 and 5) were cleared of debris and part of the central room of the addition (Room 10) was cleared in order to reveal the mask in front of the doorway to the room behind. Due to serious problems of stability, none of the other rooms on the north side were cleared of fill or debris. The rooms on the east, west and south sides were also left completely untouched with the result that it was not possible to obtain any data on room interiors, other than the aforementioned mask, but the north facade of the northern addition (Rooms 9-11) was revealed for the first time, showing decorative details which differ not only from the details of the facades of the earlier rooms on the north side but also differ from the facades of any other buildings at Uxmal, regardless of their age. What data we were able to record on this facade is given below.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Three rooms in line, with doorways on north side. These rooms, which are secondary to the rooms behind, were filled with dry-laid rubble at the time the pyramid was covered over as described earlier. Only central part of central room (Room 8) has been excavated, revealing large mask in front of doorway to rear room.

ORIENTATION: 15 degrees (magnetic), perpendicular to main facades of Rooms 9-11 (north addition).

EXTERIOR DETAILS: Details below are for north facades of Rooms 9-11.

BASE MOLDING: No real base molding. Molding at base of wall, in the form of small intertwined serpent bodies, is part of larger pattern of vertical and horizontal moldings, which divide facade into smaller, rectangular panels.

LOWER WALL ZONE

Height: 2.78 m., top of platform to bottom of medial molding.

Stonework: Where plain (just below medial molding) walls faced with small, veneer-type blocks, only roughly dressed.

Thickness: Front wall 1.02 meters thick at doorjamb of Room 10.

Decoration: Walls filled with series of "stepped" frets, where step-like shapes are carved with stylized birds (macaws), X-shapes inside of frets and whole compositions divided into panels by horizontal and vertical "serpent body" moldings (see photos and details).

DOORWAYS:

Shape: Rectangular.

Jambs: Faced with medium sized blocks, similar to those used for wall facings.

Lintels: Original lintels fallen but probably made of wood. New concrete lintel over doorway to central room.

MEDIAL MOLDING

Form: Three members. Apron-type lower member with decorated central member above; narrow rectangular member at top.

Size: Overall height .47 m. Lower member .15 m. high, central member .24 m. high, upper member .07 m.

Projection: .16 m. at bottom.

Decoration: Central member filled with continuous row of projecting rosettes with pendants below. Rosettes .20 m. in diameter. See photos and detail.

UPPER WALL ZONE: No data on upper wall zone as outer facing has been completely stripped off (see photos).

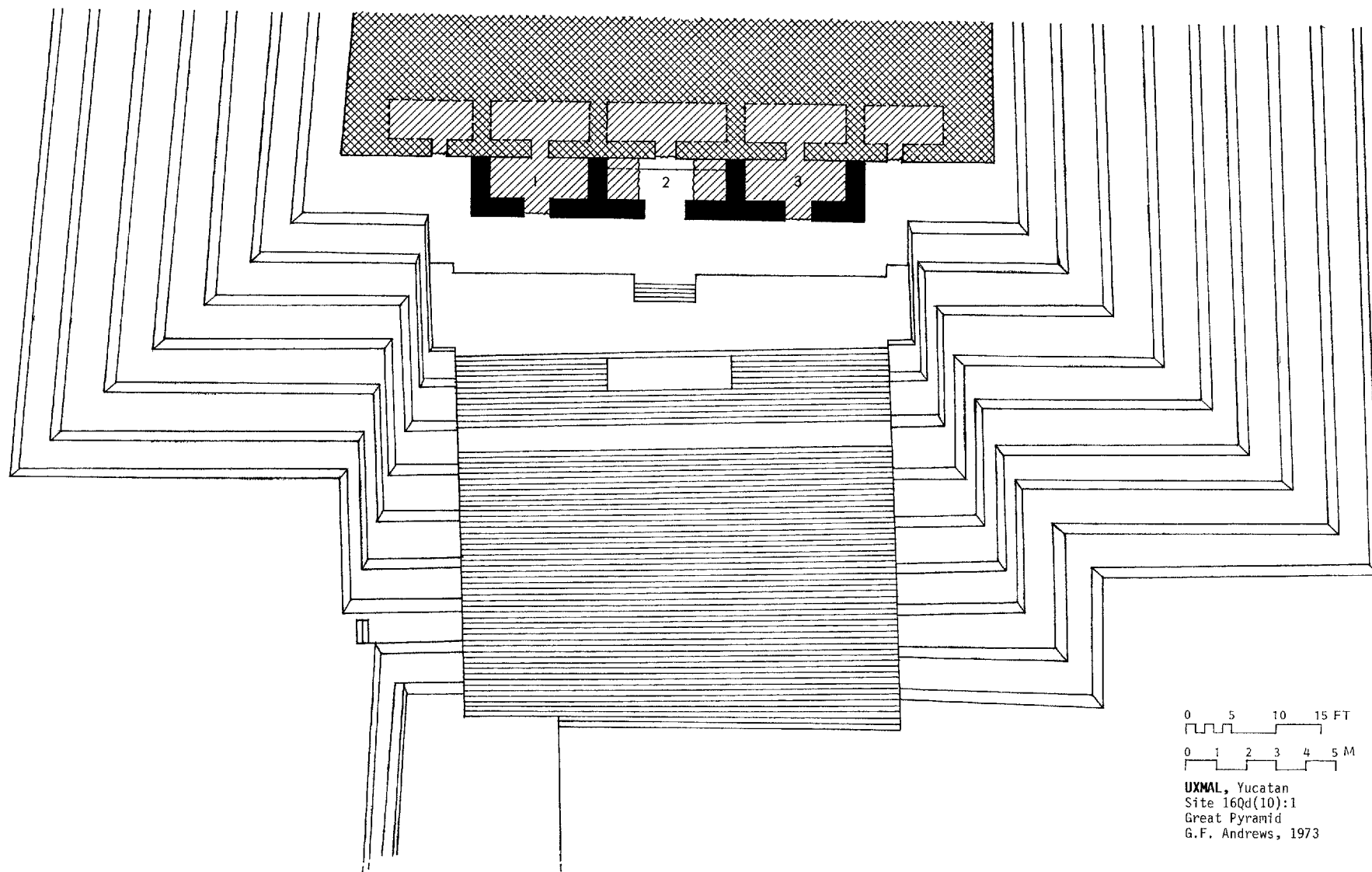
CORNICE: No data - completely fallen.

ROOF STRUCTURE: None.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Late Uxmal style.

COMMENTS: Overall design as well as many details of facade described above are unique, not only for buildings at Uxmal but for the Puuc region as a whole. While stepped frets are typical design motifs on Puuc Mosaic style buildings, the sculptured birds on the stepped portions are here unique, as are the narrow "serpent body" moldings, which divide the larger wall areas into smaller panels. The details of the corner masks which terminate the main facade are also special, since they vary considerably from the details seen in more typical long-nosed masks at Uxmal.

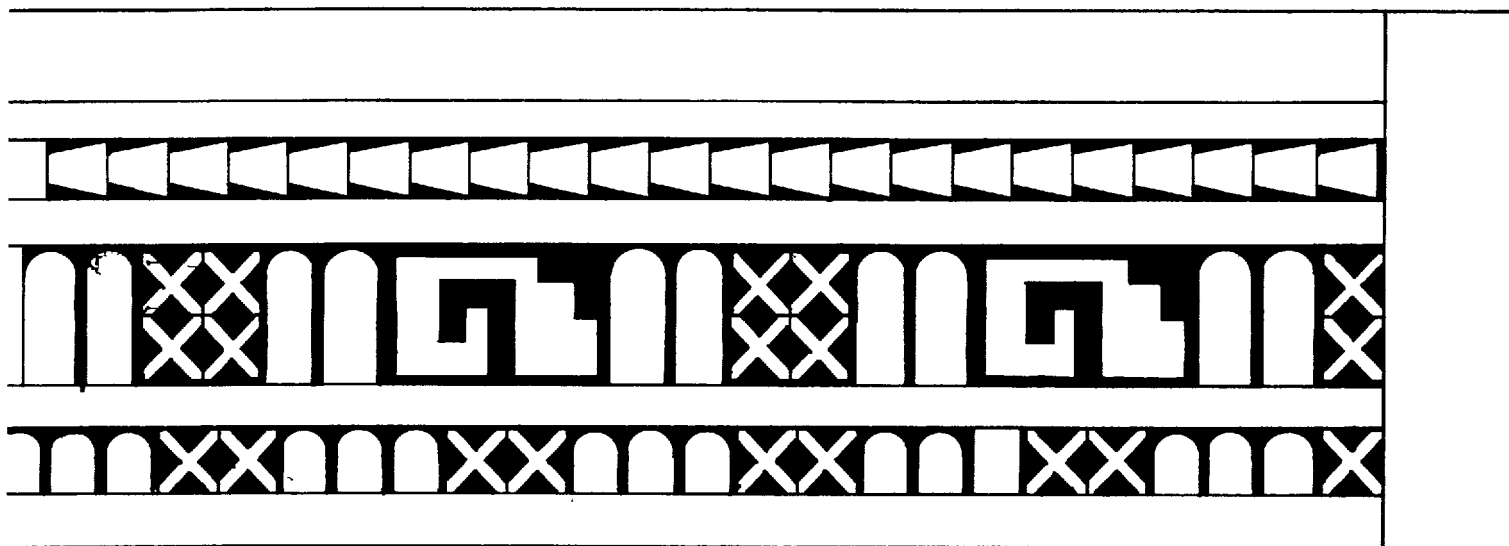
Elsewhere (Andrews, 1986), I have classified this facade as Late Uxmal in style, largely on the basis of the serpent-body moldings which divide the facade into smaller panels, and the bird sculptures, which are not found in Mosaic style buildings.



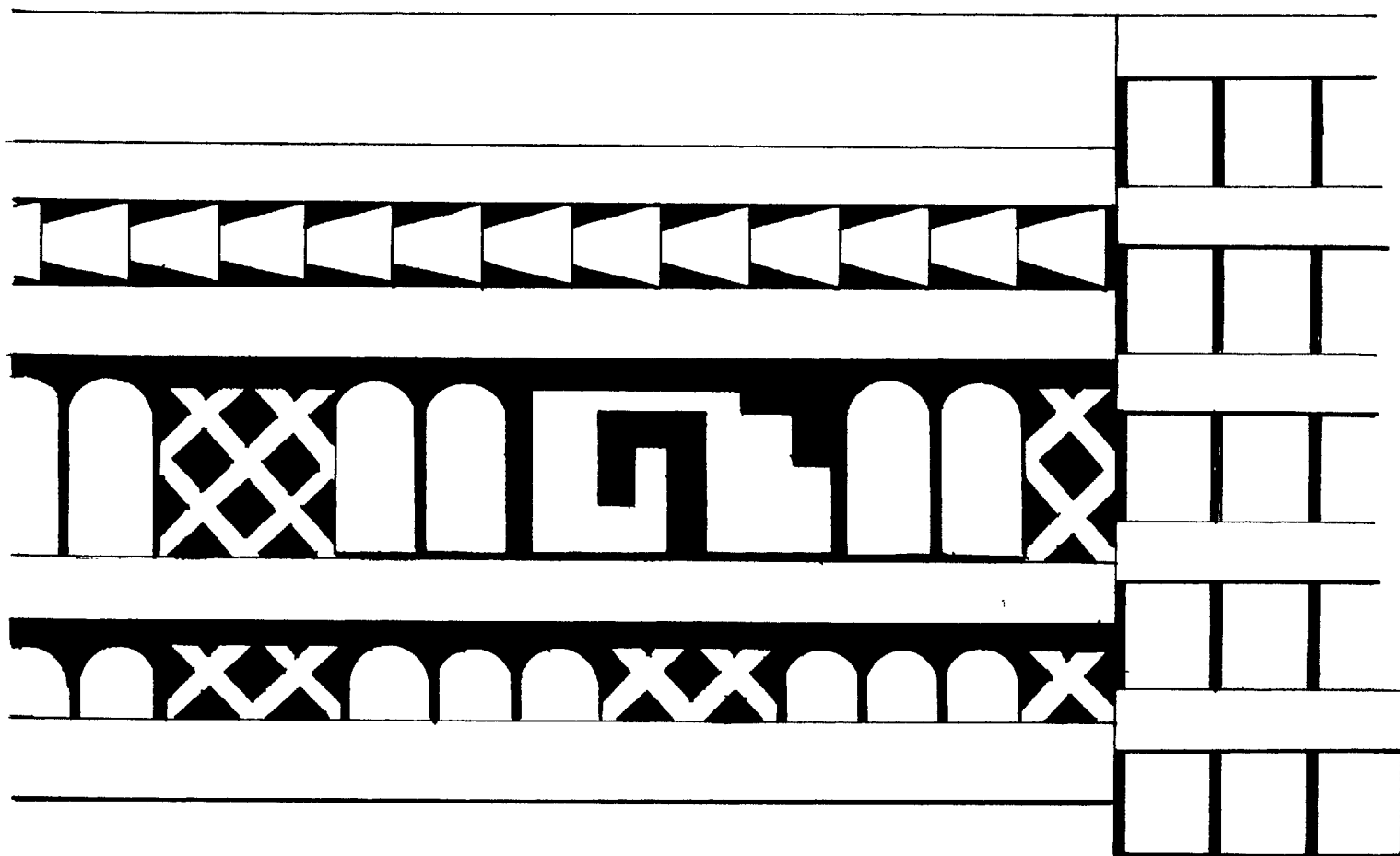
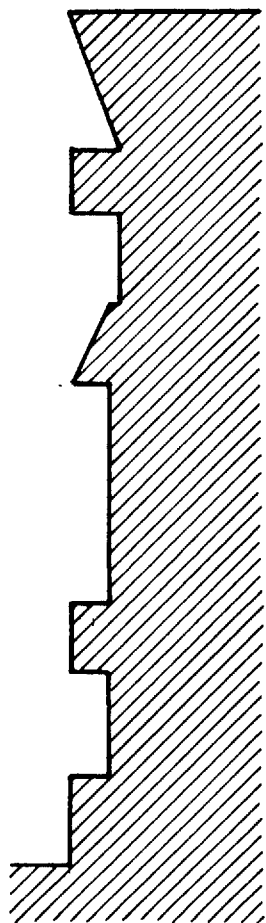
0 5 10 15 FT
0 1 2 3 4 5 M

UXMAL, Yucatan
Site 16Qd(10):1
Great Pyramid
G.F. Andrews, 1973

UXMAL
Great Pyramid
16Qd(10):1

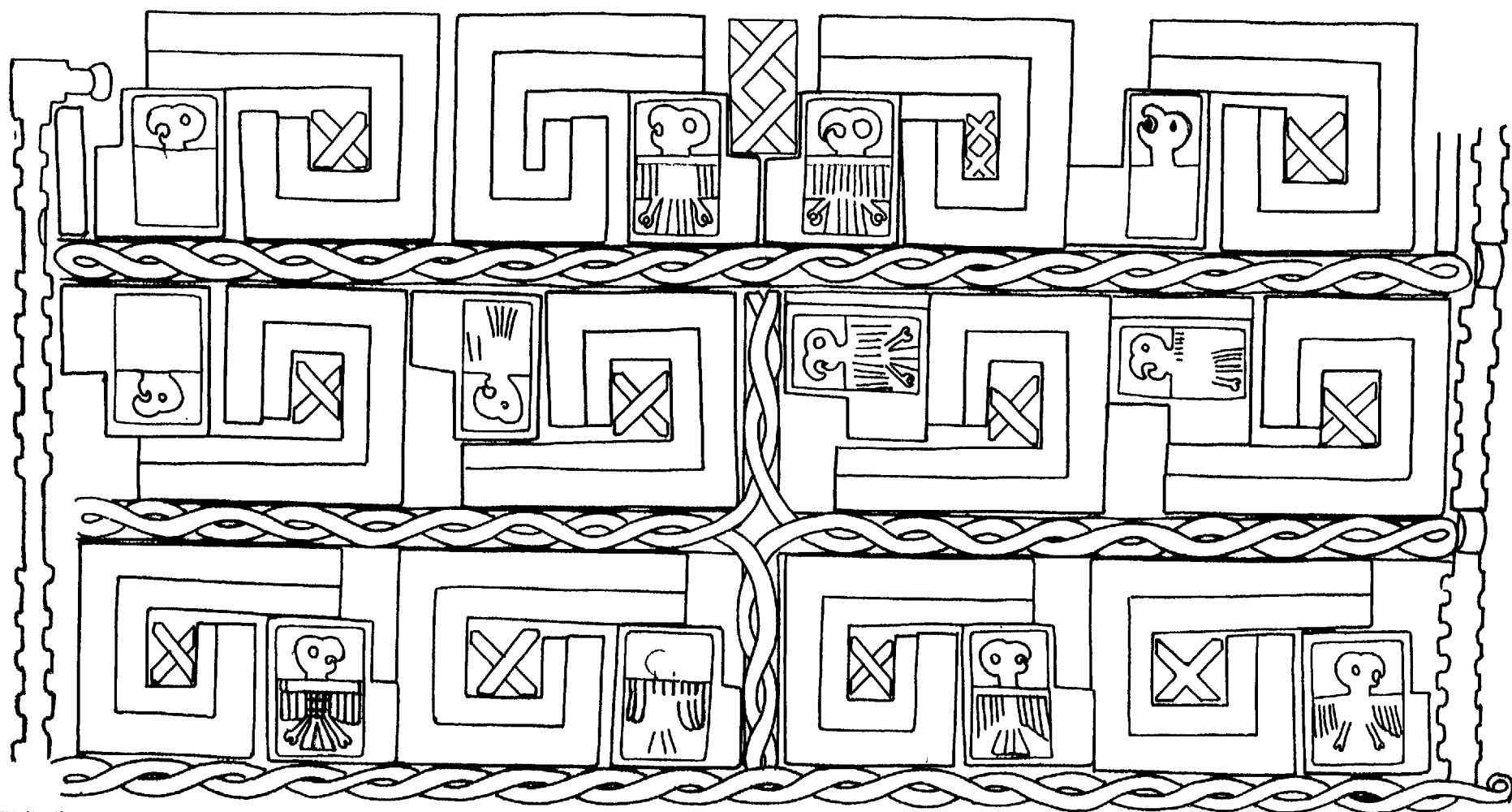
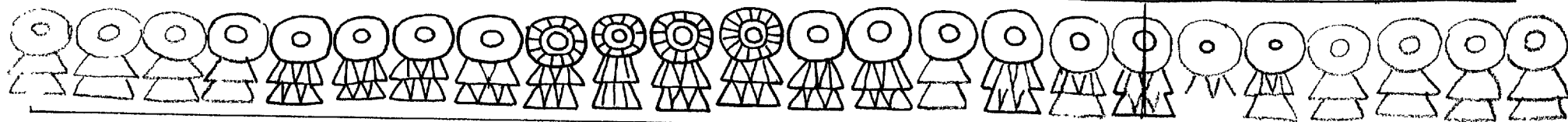


UXMAL, Yucatan
Site 16Qd(10):1
Great Pyramid
G.F. Andrews, 1983

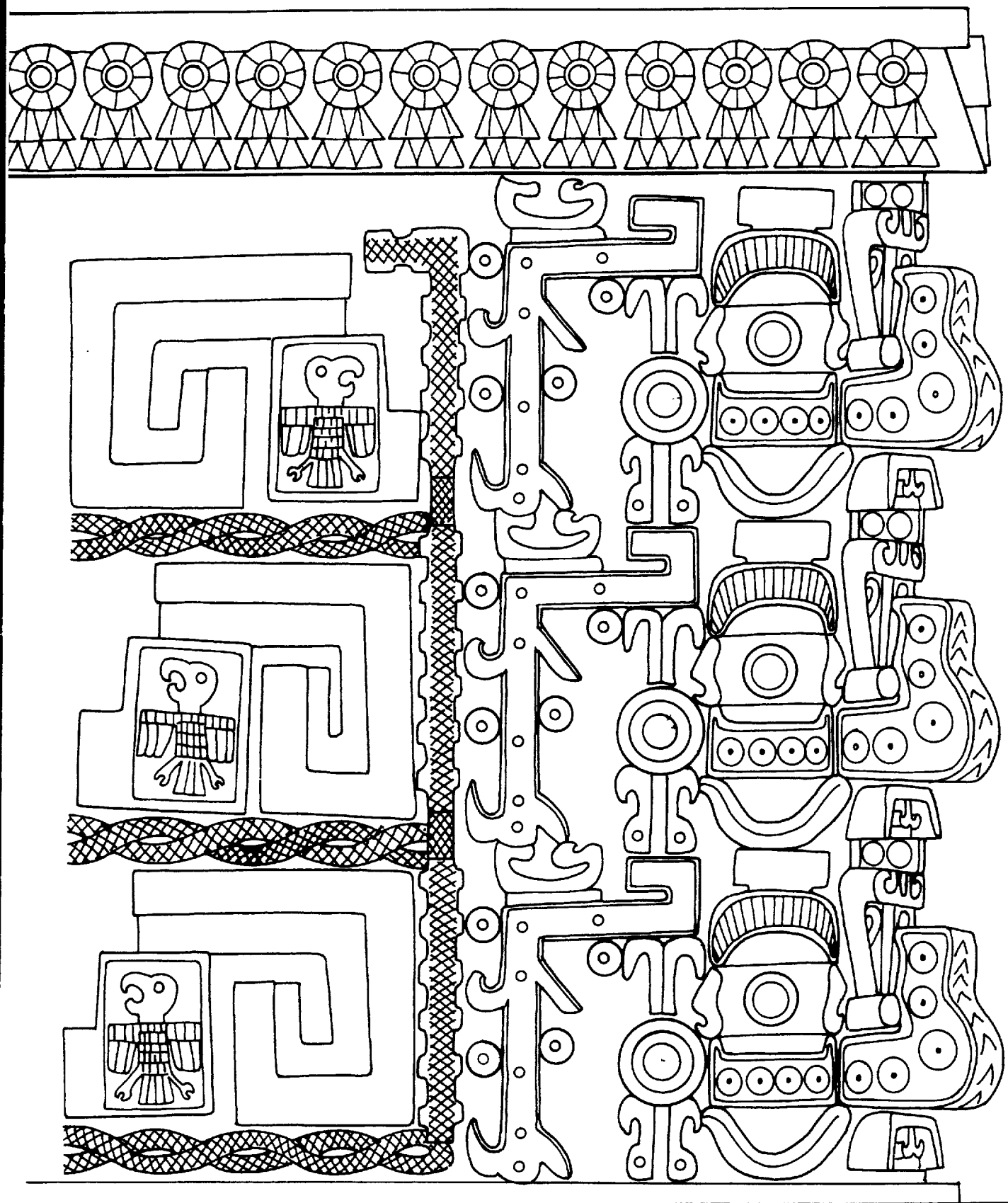


Detail of decoration on north face of upper platform

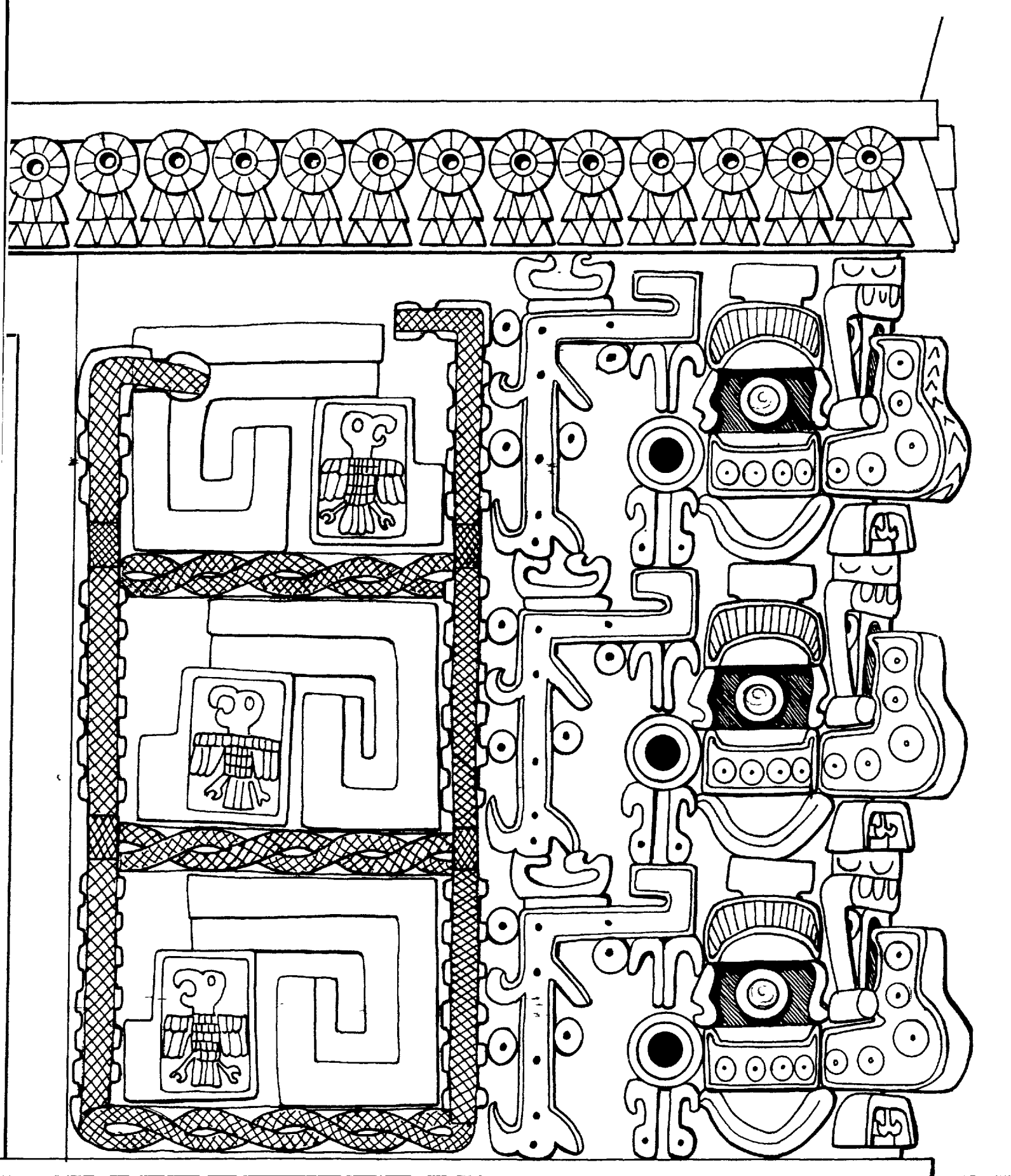
UXMAL, Yucatan
 Site 16Qd(10):1
 Great Pyramid
 G.F. Andrews, 1981



2

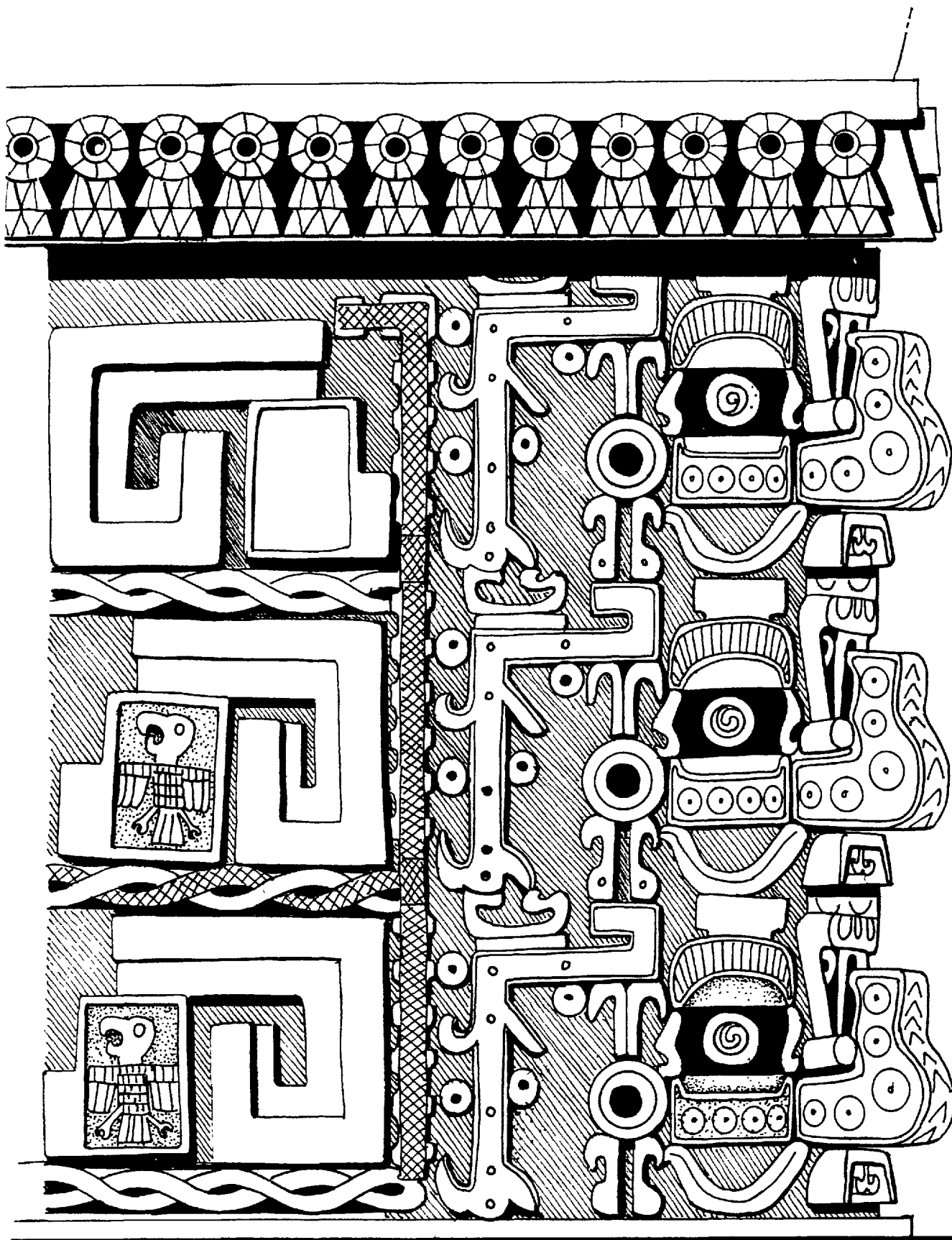


ANIMAL GREAT PYRAMID: corner mark & adj. sculpt. on N. side upper level

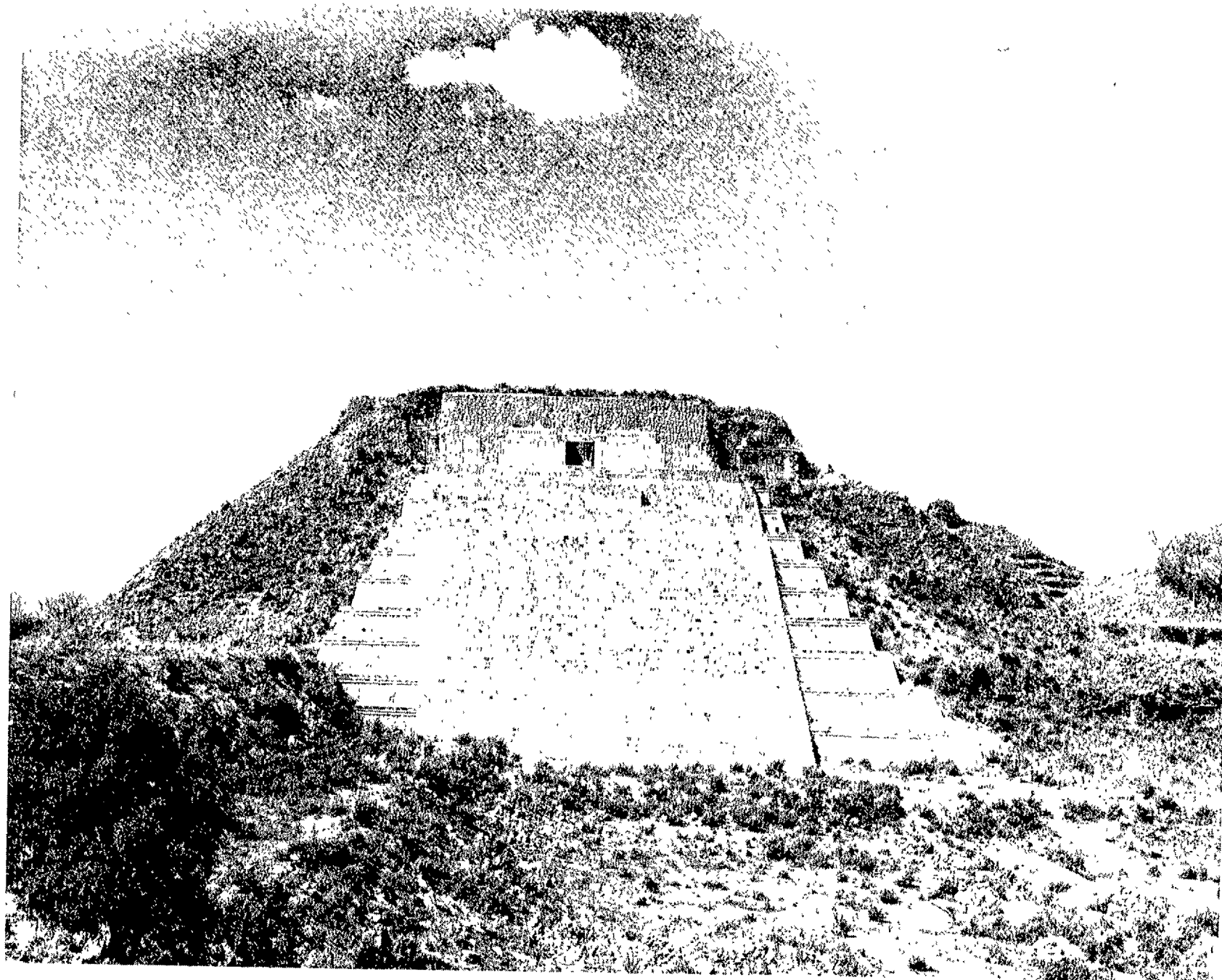


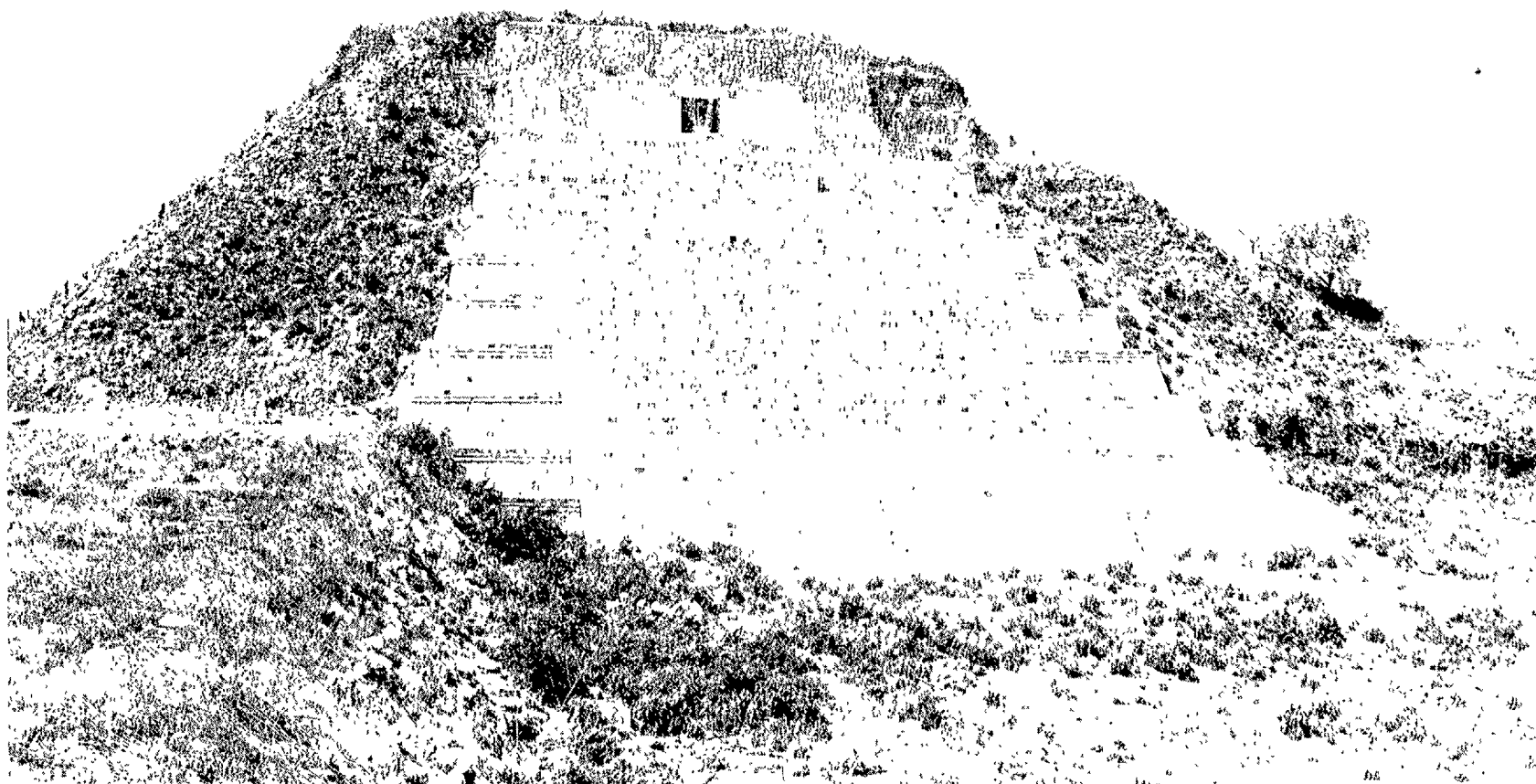
1206

UXMAL, Yucatan
Site 16Qd(10):1
Great Pyramid
G.F. Andrews, 1983

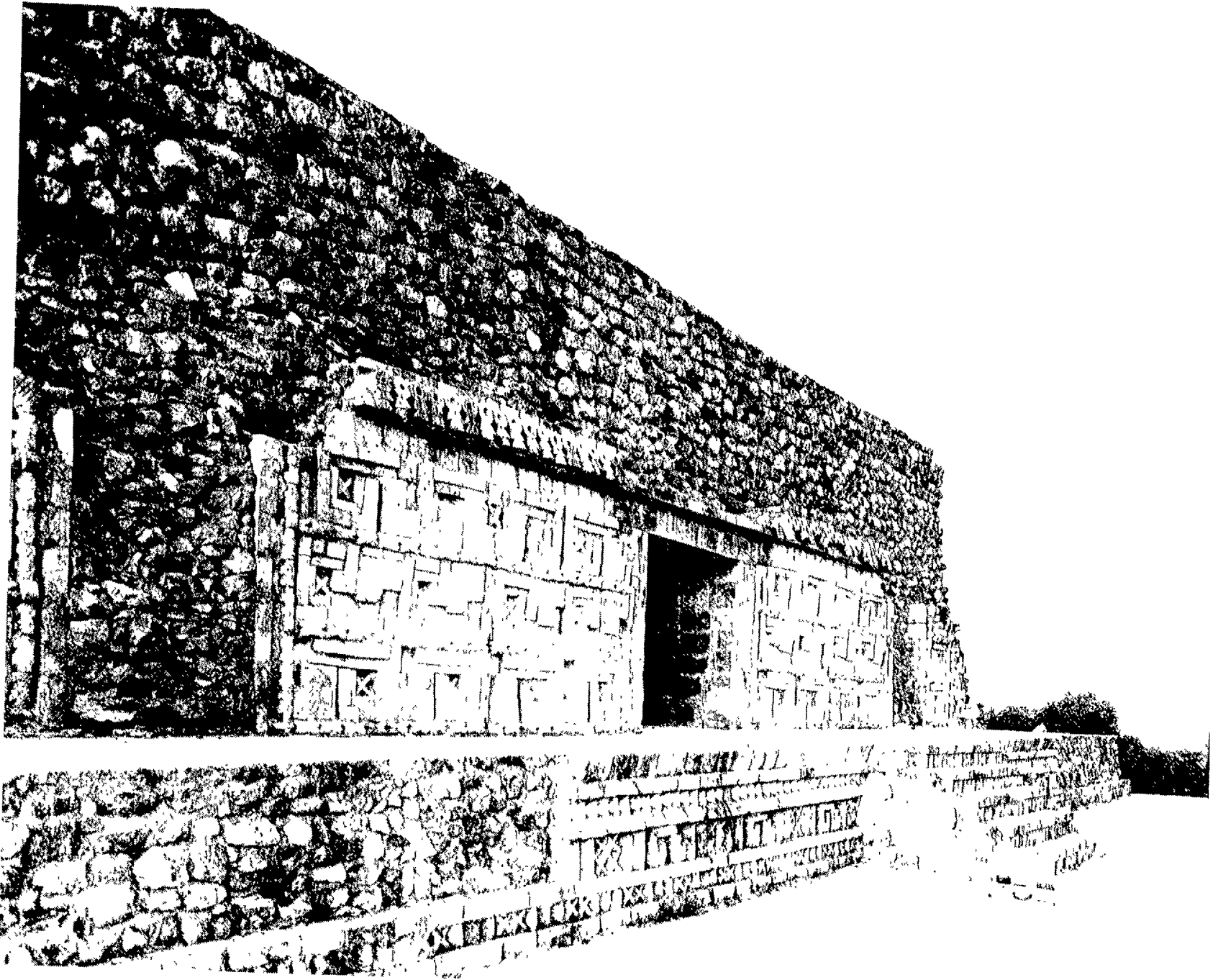


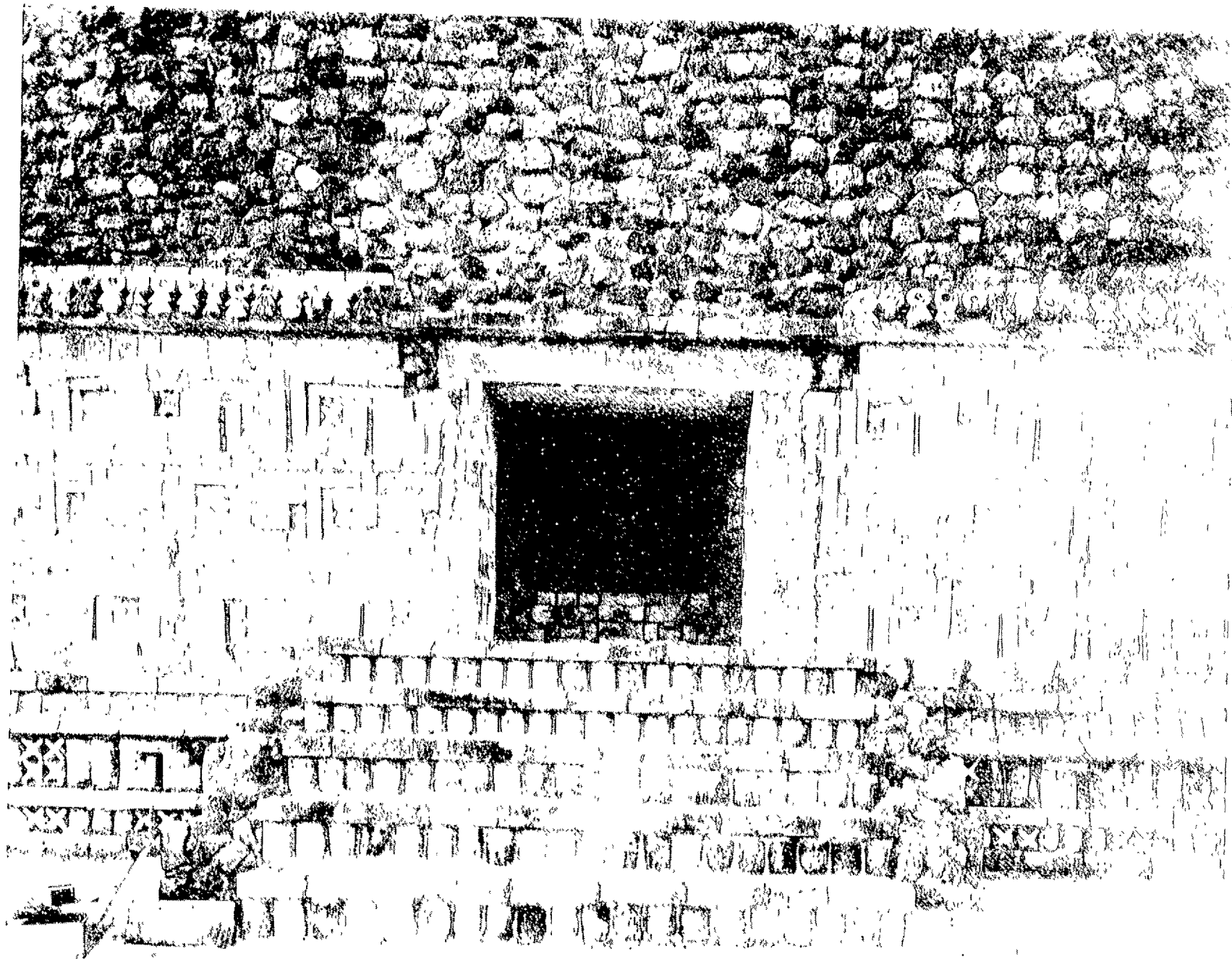
UXMAL, GREAT PYRAMID
DETAIL OF CORNER MASKS, FRETS, AND BIRDS

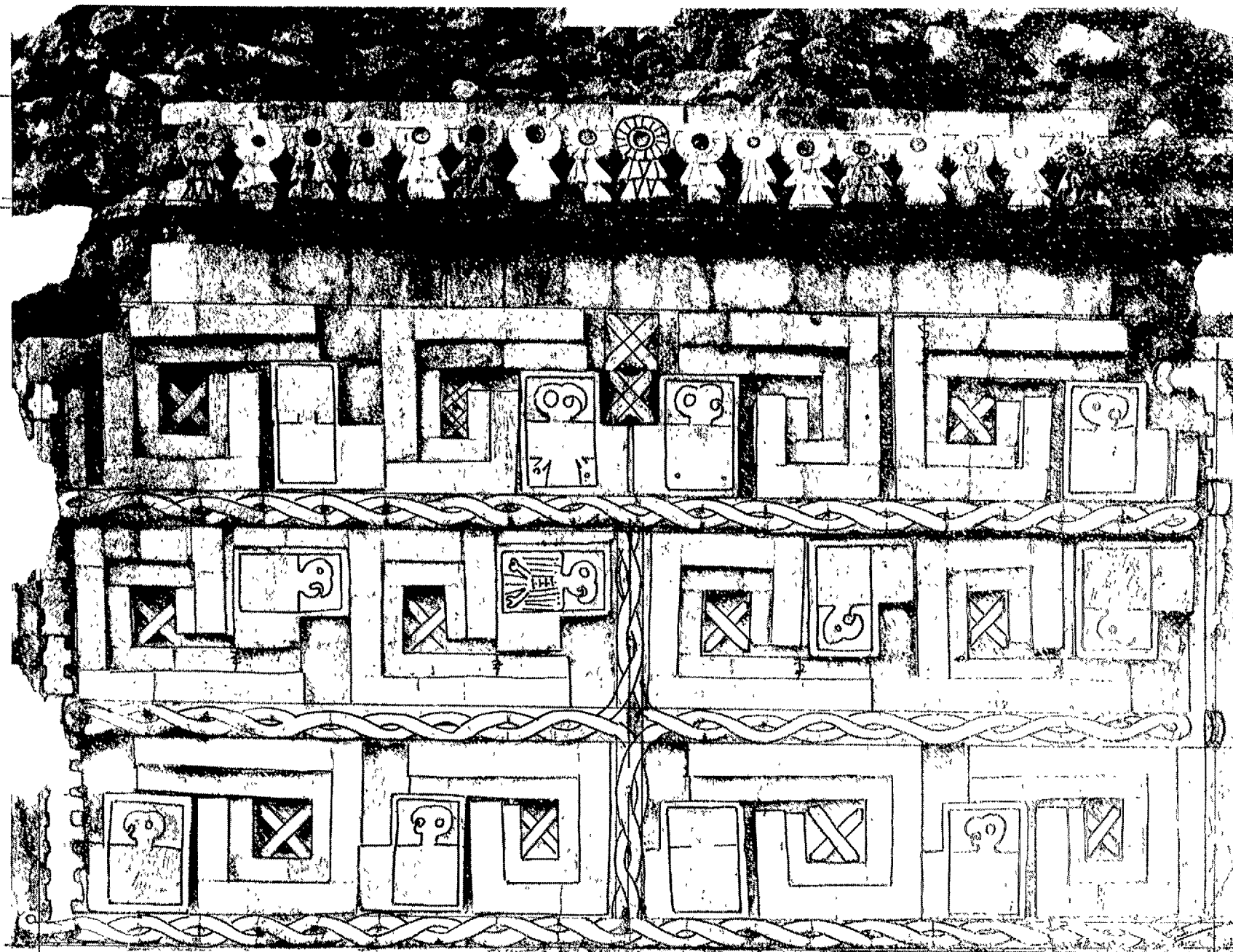


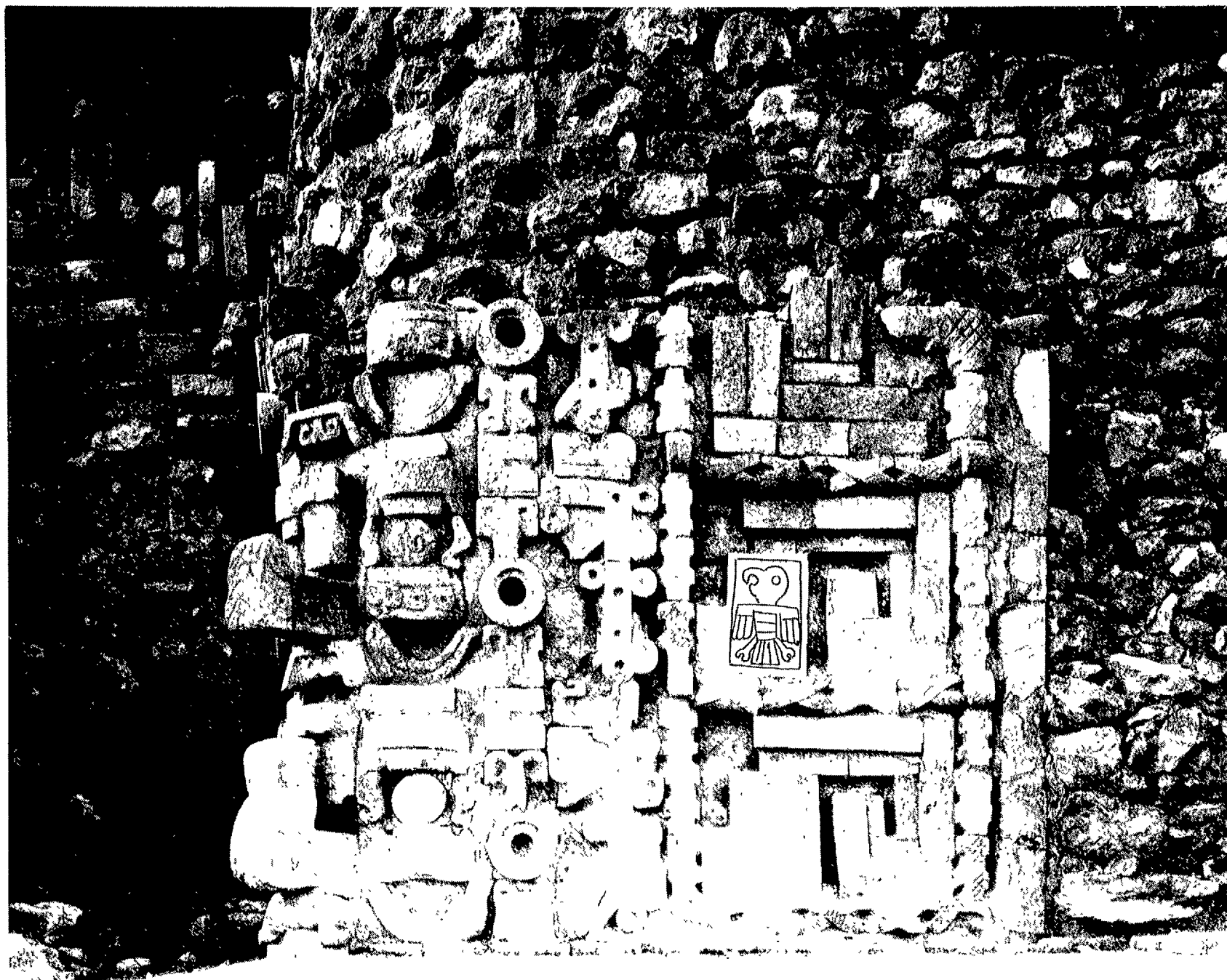


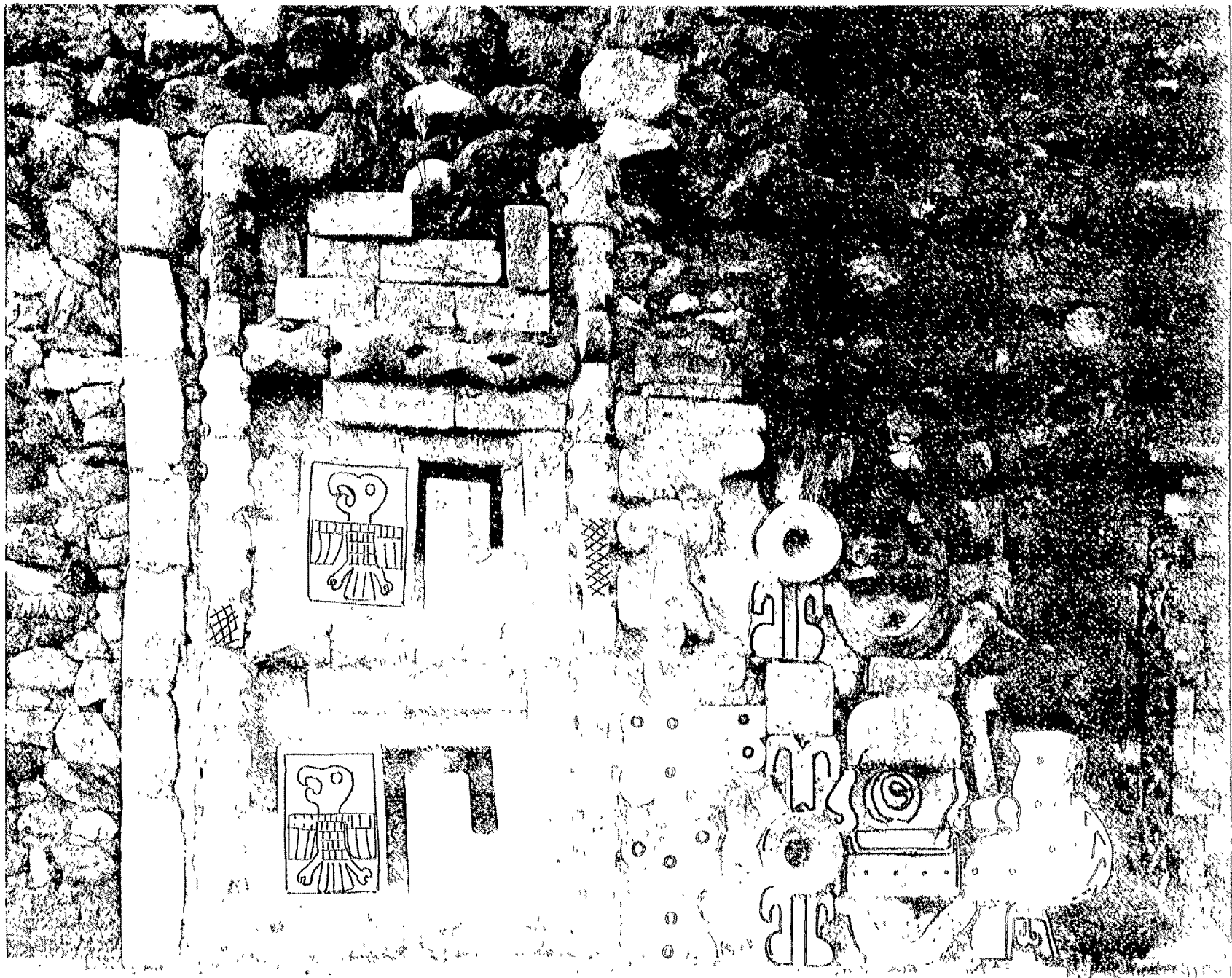
68

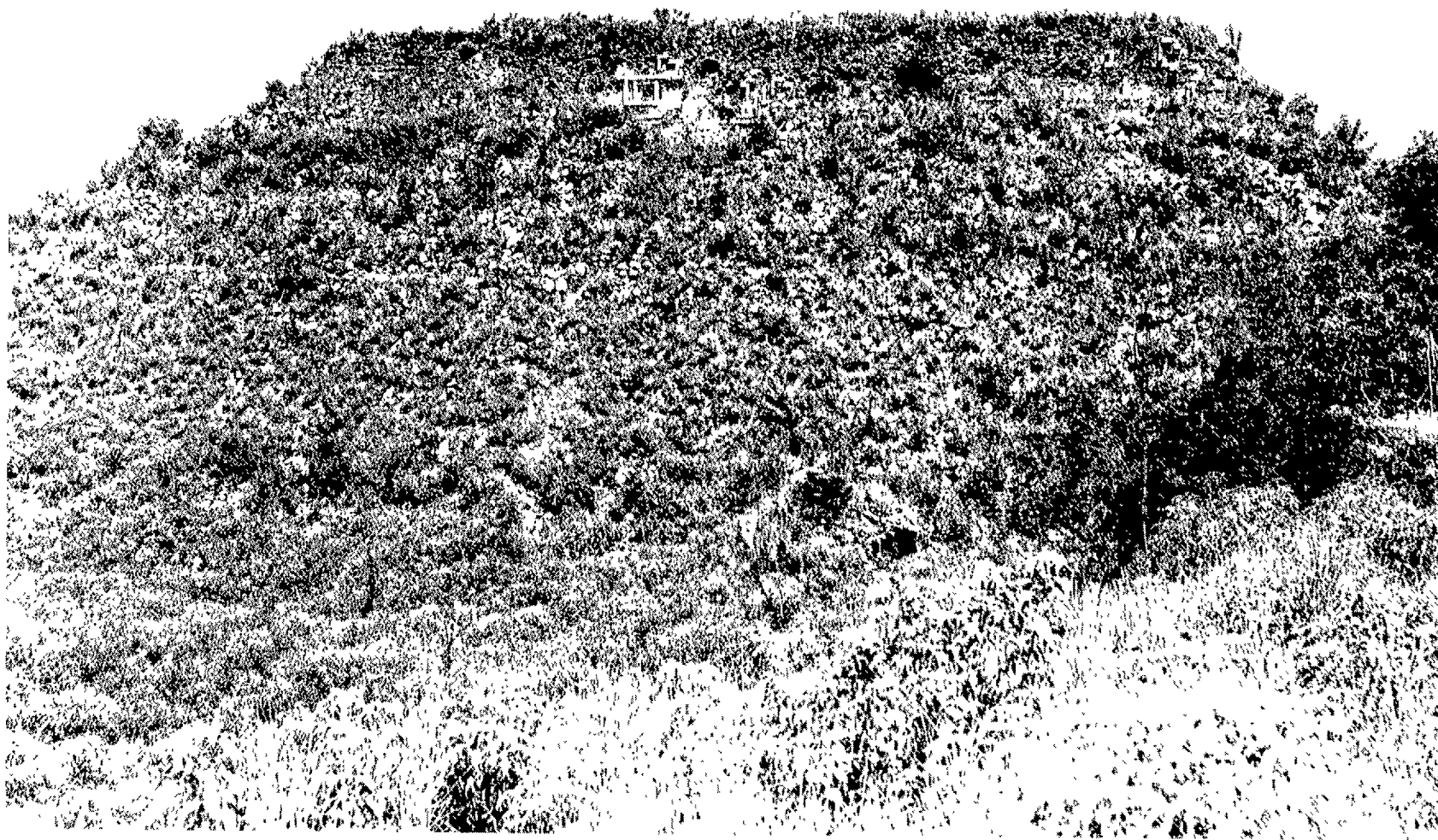












PYRAMID OF THE OLD WOMAN

GROUP OF HOUSE (PYRAMID) OF THE OLD WOMAN

This group is situated about eighty to one hundred meters southeast of the southeast corner of the great platform supporting the House of the Governor, and is dominated by a large pyramid at the southeast corner of the group (see map). Group appears to be organized around a plaza on the west side of the high pyramid, which extends some distance north of the northern face of the pyramid. The northern end of this plaza is bounded by a small, steep-sided mound with traces of vaulted room(s) near the bottom on the west side. My notes say that the vault stones exposed in a partly fallen vault show a different construction technology than seen in most other buildings at Uxmal. The west side of the plaza is bounded by a low mound, which appears to represent the remains of a fallen vaulted building with a single row of rooms. I also noted the remains of a fallen vaulted building a short distance southeast of the southeast corner of the Pyramid of the Old Woman, but have no data on its details.

PYRAMID OF THE OLD WOMAN

The pyramidal substructure supporting the Upper Temple of the House of the Old Woman is now little more than a rough mound, but traces of a stairway on the west side can still be seen as well as outlines of its stepped sides near the top. The sides of the pyramid were faced with medium-sized, rectangular blocks, of the kind seen in the outer faces of the Pyramid of the Magician. Corners of stepped sides of the pyramid are rounded, with small radii, similar to those seen in round corners of platform of Governor's Palace or platforms supporting North and West Buildings of the Nunnery Quadrangle. See Pollock (1980: 253) for further discussion of this structure.

SUPERSTRUCTURE

The Upper Temple on top of the Pyramid of the Old Woman shows only a portion of a three-member base molding, with one or two courses of wall stones above. Base molding carries groups of four colonnettes, similar to those seen in buildings of the Nunnery Quadrangle. Pollock (1980: 253) has described what little remains of this building and notes that the lack of debris indicates it was never finished.

SITE: UXMAL

NUMBER: 16Qd(10) 1

DATE: 5/5/1981

LOWER TEMPLE, PYRAMID OF THE OLD WOMAN

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Small, two-room building situated at northwest corner of Pyramid of the Old Woman. Main facade and exterior doorway on west side. Rear room, which is considerably smaller than front room, entered from doorway in rear wall of front room. High, single wall roofcomb over central dividing wall, now mostly fallen. Floor of this building is at higher elevation than floor of courtyard below.

ORIENTATION: Main facade faces west.

EXTERIOR DETAILS: Details below are for west and south facades.

BASE MOLDING

Form: 3 members. Narrow, rectangular members top and bottom with plain, recessed central member.

Size: Overall height uncertain as lower member mostly buried.

Projection: About .025 m. at top.

LOWER WALL ZONE:

Height: 2.59 m. (approx.), top of base to bottom of medial molding.

Stonework: Walls faced with 8-9 courses of small moderately well-cut blocks, varying in size.

Thickness: Front (west) wall .61 m. thick. South end wall .65 m. thick, rear wall .68 m. thick.

Decoration: None.

DOORWAYS:

Shape: Rectangular.

Jambs: Fallen. No data.

Lintels: Wood lintels, now fallen.

MEDIAL MOLDING

Form: Single member, rectangular molding.

Size: .21 m. high.

Projection: .14 m. at bottom, .075 m. at top.

Decoration: None.

UPPER WALL ZONE:

Height: 1.94 m., top of medial molding to bottom of cornice.

Stonework: Walls faced with 7 courses of small blocks with squarish faces, only moderately well-cut.

Decoration: Pairs of projecting stones, about .46 m. on center, in upper wall, .46 m. below cornice molding. Projecting stones at corners, set at 45 degrees, at top of medial molding. These stones presumably used to support stucco sculptures.

Other: Recessed panel in south end wall, 1.49 m. wide, .76 m. high, .08-.10 m. deep. In center of this panel is a single, half-round colonnette, .30 m. high, with holes .12 m. wide on both sides (see detail).

CORNICE:

Form: Two members. Rectangular lower member, with outward sloping coping member above.

Size: Lower member .12 m. high. Upper member about .46-.48 m. high.

Projection: .037 m. at bottom.

Decoration: None.

ROOF STRUCTURE:

Description: Single wall, slotted roofcomb with unique pattern of horizontal and vertical moldings (see details).

Location: Over medial wall.

Dimensions: Approximately .78 m. thick at base. Lowest tier about 1.67 m. high, with .12 m. molding above. Second tier 1.50 m. high, with .12 m. molding at top. Uppermost portion partly fallen - height uncertain.

Decoration: Numerous projecting stones in both east and west faces of roofcomb, presumably used to support stucco sculptures. Traces of red paint on plaster in slots of roofcomb.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Early Puuc style.

COMMENTS: I am inclined to see this small building as a very late example of the Early Puuc style, which probably dates from the same period as the West Buildings of the Cemetery Group. As suggested earlier by Pollock (1980: 256), the Lower Temple probably rests on its own pyramidal substructure and antedates larger Pyramid of the Old Woman. The latter pyramid, supports a mostly fallen building which appears to have been executed in Classic Puuc Colonnade style, tending to confirm sequence indicated above.

SITE: UXMAL

NUMBER: 16Qd(10): 1

DATE: 5/5/1981

LOWER TEMPLE, PYRAMID OF THE OLD WOMAN

INTERIOR DETAILS: Room 1

DIMENSIONS:

Length: About 8.0 m.

Width: 2.31 m.

WALLS:

Height: 2.84 m., floor to springline.

Thickness: Front wall .61 m. thick. Dividing wall to rear room (Room 2) .96 m. thick.

Stonework: Walls faced with 8-9 courses of small, roughly dressed blocks.

Doorways: Exterior doorway fallen. Doorway to rear room has recessed head and jambs (see section). Wood lintel, above, now fallen.

Rod Sockets: No data.

Cordholders: No data.

Wall Openings: Three holes through south end wall; upper holes, .48 m. to center below springline.

Platforms: None.

Other: Floor to rear room raised about .17 m. above floor of Room 1. Top of floor continues as molding at base of rear wall.

VAULTS:

Springline Offset: About .05 m.

Height: 1.78 m., springline to bottom of molding below capstones.

Form: Vault faces show slight curvature.

Stonework: Vaults faced with 7 courses of specialized, wedge-shaped stones with beveled faces.

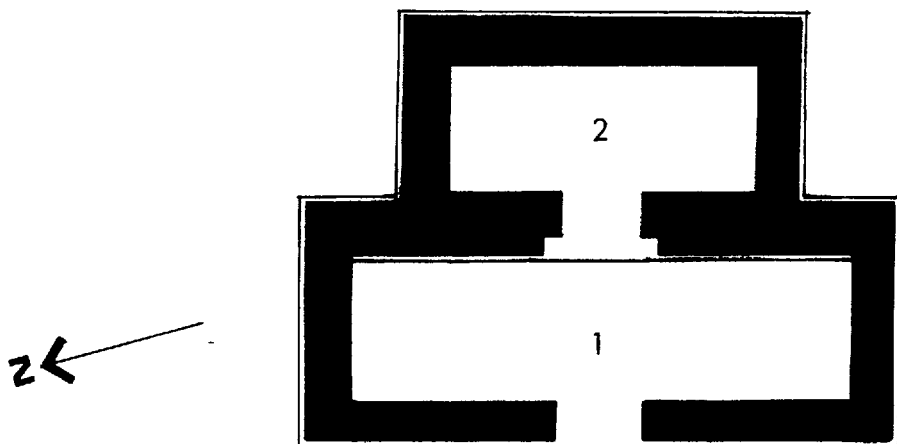
Capstones: Capstone span .38-.40 m. Moldings below capstones .10 m. high.

Crossbeams: Single crossbeams near ends of room, just below springline. Additional crossbeams in capstone molding and at bottom of second course of facing stones below capstone molding.

Other: Two openings in south end wall, with colonnette between (see exterior details).

OBSERVATIONS: Room 2 - Length: About 4.86 m. Width 2.06 m. Other Details of walls and vault similar to those seen in Room 1.

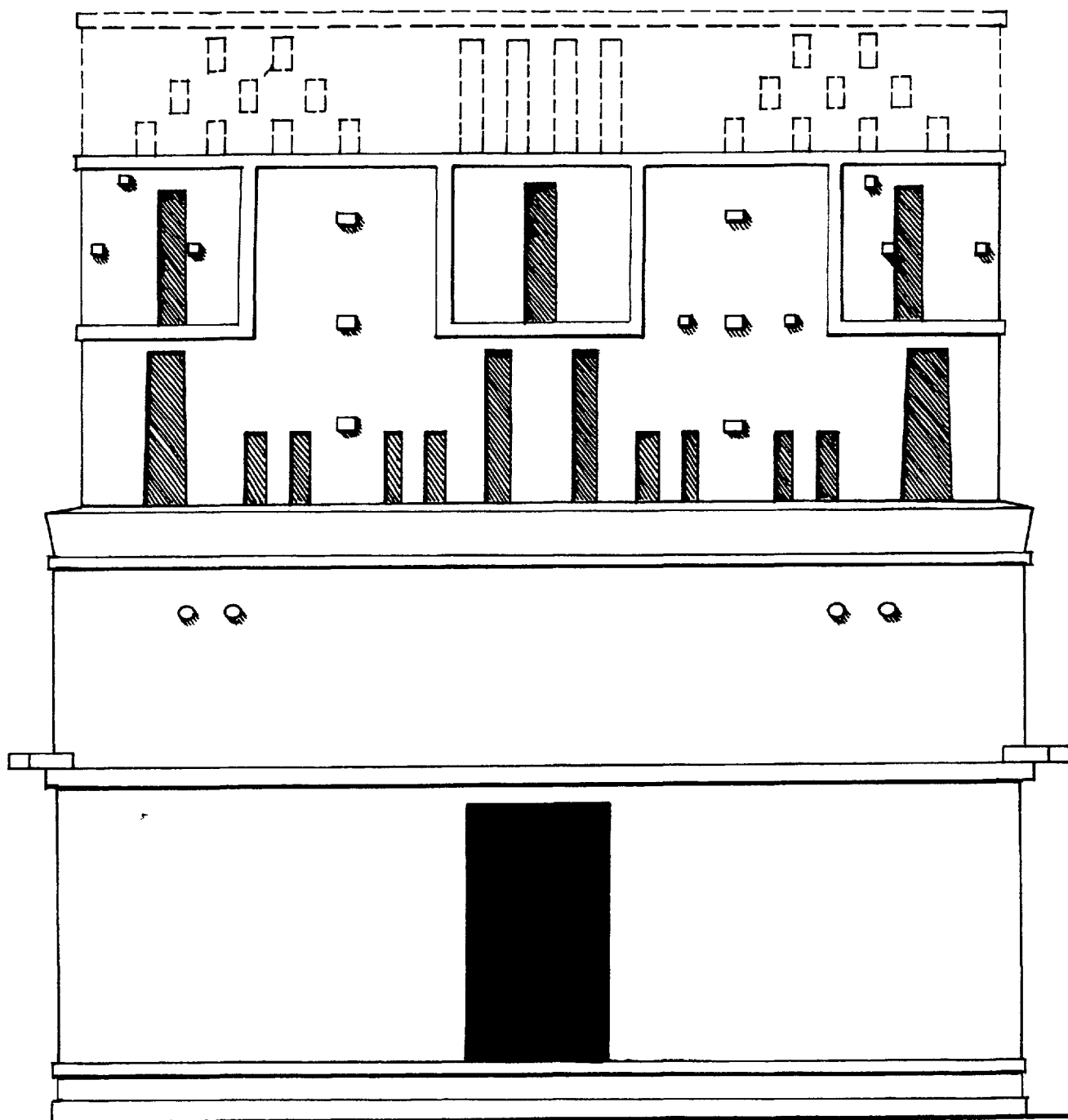
95



0 5 10 15 FT

0 1 2 3 4 5 M

Uxmal. Yucatan
Site 16Qd(10): 1
Lower temple,
Pyramid of the Old Woman
G.F. Andrews, 1981



0 5 10 FT

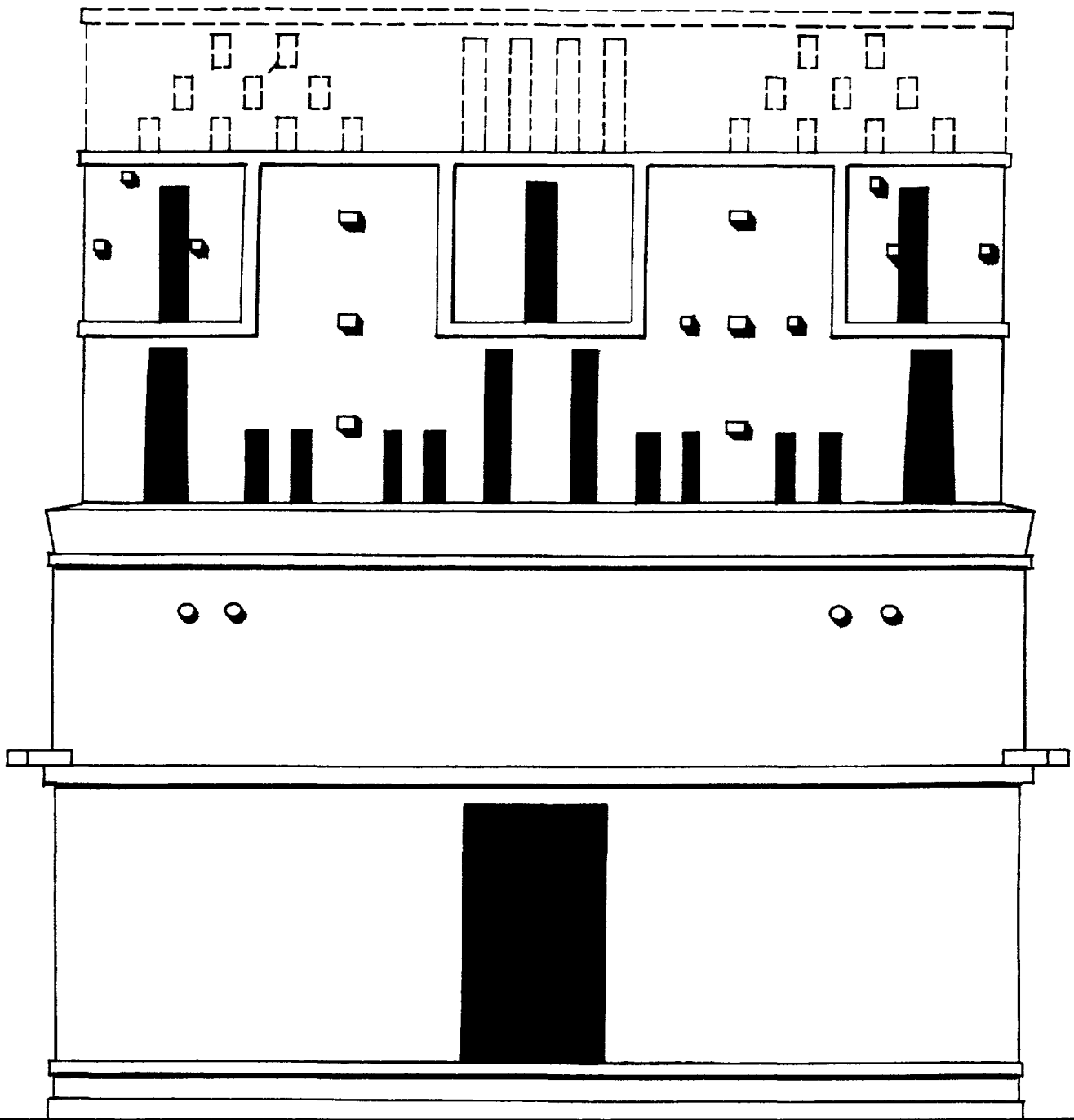


0 1.0 2.0 3.0 M



UXMAL, Yucatan
 Site 16Qd(10):1
 Lower Temple,
 House of the Old Woman
 G.F. Andrews, 1981





*UXMAL, PYRAMID OF THE OLD WOMAN
LOWER TEMPLE, WEST FACADE*

GROUP OF TEMPLE OF THE PHALLI

GROUP OF THE TEMPLE OF THE PHALLI

The group which includes the building commonly known as the Temple of the Phalli is situated near the southern edge of main center, about five hundred meters south of the Pyramid of the Old Woman. Group consists of several buildings and platforms situated along the southern and western edges of a large terrace which is raised about 9.0 - 12.0 meters above the natural ground level to the south, east, and west. Two additional terraces at slightly lower elevations extend northward from the main terrace; the first of these is about 12.77 meters deep and the second 29.18 meters deep. A few steps at the northern edge of the second terrace lead down to the natural ground level, which then slopes down to the north (see sketch plan).

The Temple of the Phalli itself, which stands on a three meter high platform, at the southern edge of the main terrace, is actually a long, range-type building with seven rooms in line opening to the north and a single room, behind Room 5, opening to the south. There may have been additional rooms on the south side behind Rooms 1-4 but this is not clear. Just south of Rooms 6 and 7, and slightly west of the projecting room at the rear (Room 8), is an additional row of three rooms with their long axis running east-west. While these rooms have mostly fallen, a series of doorjambs still in place show that they opened to the north (see sketch plan).

The west side of the upper terrace (main terrace) is bounded by a fallen masonry building about 8.5 meters long which is situated just northwest of the row of three rooms behind the Temple of the Phalli. North of these rooms is a platform, about 12.0 meters long and 3.65 meters wide, with a three-member molding along the outer edges: central member of this molding shows groups of colonnettes, alternating with plain areas. A short distance north of this platform is a completely fallen building with its long axis running north-south. I have no data on this latter building as it is now totally destroyed.

20

SITE: UXMAL

NUMBER: 16Qd(10): 1

DATE: 1/31/1984

TEMPLE OF THE PHALLI

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: To begin with, I believe the common name for this building (Phallic Temple or Temple of the Phalli) is misleading since our exploration showed it to be a very long (32 meters), range-type structure with a row of seven rooms in line on the north side and at least one room on the south side (behind third room from west end). See plan. There may have been additional rooms behind Rooms 1-4 but this is not clear. In any event, a long multi-chambered building of this kind can hardly be called a temple-type structure and it might better be designated as Palace of the Phalli. The phallus referred to in the name is actually a waterspout in the cornice of the rear wall of the rooms at the west end. Presumably, there were more of these at one time but only one is now in place. Unfortunately, the rooms are mostly fallen, the main (north) facade has entirely collapsed, and only a small portion of the rear wall of Rooms 6-7, together with a piece of the west end wall of Room 8, are still preserved.

EXTERIOR DETAILS: Details below are for rear wall of Rooms 6 and 7 and west end wall of Room 8.

BASE MOLDING: No data - covered with debris.

LOWER WALL ZONE:

Height: 2.40 m., top of base molding to bottom of medial molding.

Stonework: Walls faced with well-cut, veneer-type blocks set in slightly uneven courses.

Thickness: No data.

Decoration: None.

DOORWAYS: No data - all doorways fallen.

MEDIAL MOLDING:

Form: Three-members. Large apron-type member at bottom with projecting rectangular member above. Reversed apron-type member at top.

Size: Overall height .77 m. Lower member .45 m. high, central member .14 m. high.

Projection: .20 m. at bottom.

Decoration: None.

Other: Lower member made with 2 courses of stones.

UPPER WALL ZONE:

Height: 1.85 m., top of medial molding to bottom of cornice.

Stonework: Walls faced with 5 courses of well-cut, veneer-type blocks, set in fairly even courses.

Decoration: None - walls are plain.

CORNICE:

Form: Three members - same as medial molding.

Size: Overall height about .89 m.

Projection: .15 m. at bottom.

Decoration: Projecting waterspout, shaped like phallus,. rests on top of central member of molding in rear wall.

ROOF STRUCTURE: None.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Classic Puuc Intermediate style.

COMMENTS: Many Puuc buildings with plain rear facades, carry some form of decoration in main facade. Unfortunately, main facade of this building is completely fallen and question of decorative elements is still open.

SITE: UXMAL

NUMBER: 16Qd(10): 1

DATE: 1/31/1984

TEMPLE OF THE PHALLI

INTERIOR DETAILS: Room 5

DIMENSIONS:

Length: 4.8 m.

Width: Unknown - front wall fallen.

WALLS: No data - rooms filled with debris almost to springline of vault.

VAULTS:

Springline Offset: .03 m.

Height: 2.59 m., springline to bottom of capstone molding.

Form: Vault faces have slight curvature.

Stonework: Vault faced with 9 courses of well-cut, specialized stones. Profiles include both boot shapes and wedge shapes. Typical facing stone is .27 m. wide, .38 m. high, and .35 m. deep.

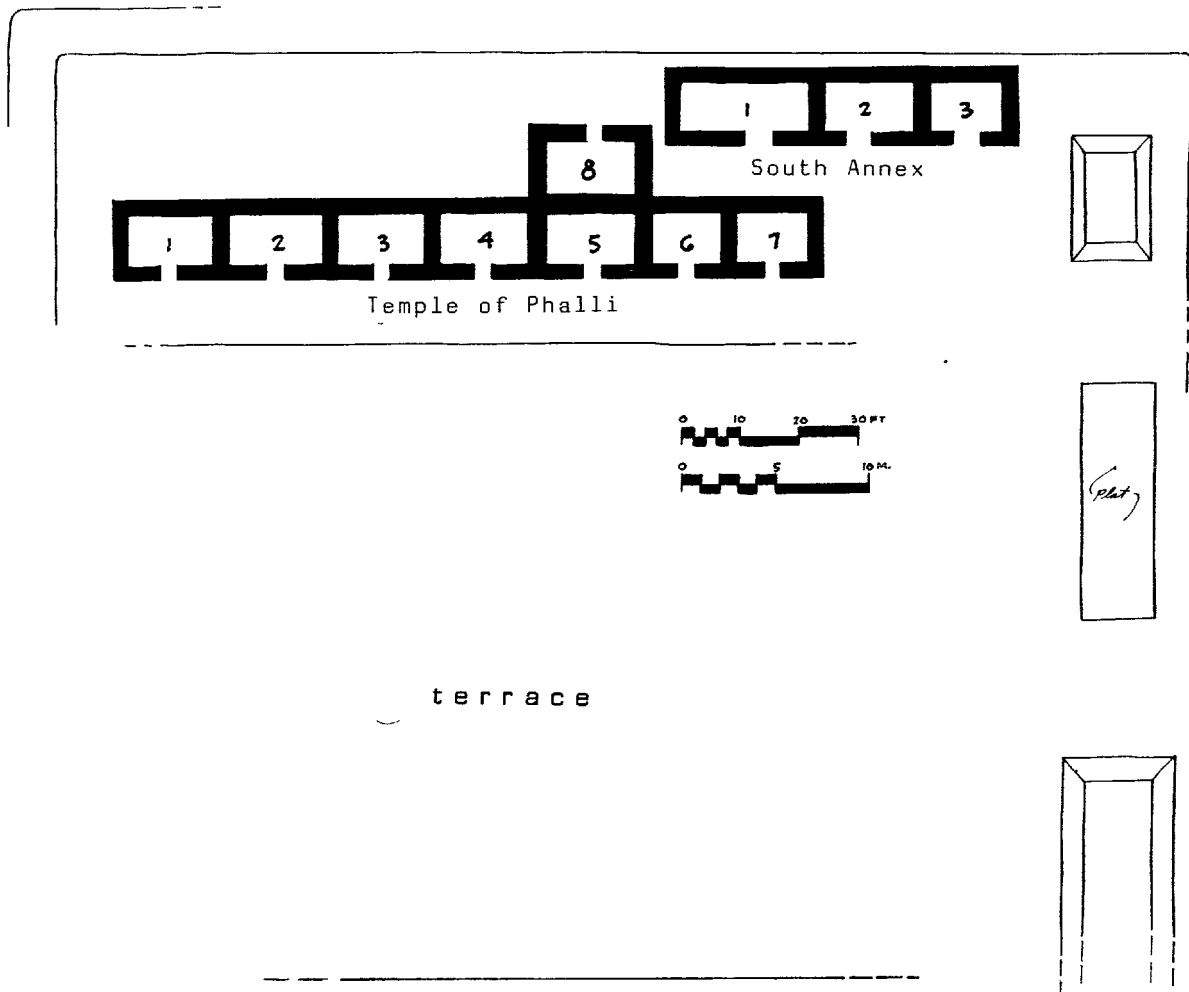
Capstones: Fallen - no data.

Crossbeams: Pairs of crossbeams, .40 m. center to center, about .30 m. from both end walls. These are at top of first course of vault stones. Additional crossbeams at bottom of fourth course of stones below capstone molding.

Other: Springline course of vault stones has nearly vertical face.

OBSERVATIONS: a) Stonework in walls and vaults fair to good but not as good as stonework in major buildings such as Governor's Palace and Nunnery Quadrangle.
b) No data on other rooms, which are fallen and/or filled with debris.

SITE UXMAL LOCATION YUCATAN DATE 1/31/84
BUILDING GROUP OF TEMPLE of PHALLI DRAWING SKETCH PLAN NO. P/04/C



STELA PLATFORM

WEST QUADRANGLE (West Group)

I have been unable to relocate this complex, which is shown on the Merrill map of Uxmal about 120 meters west of the Dove-Cotes (Palomas) complex. While it is called a quadrangle, the map shows only two parallel range-type buildings with a column altar between. Seler (1917), Blom (1934), and Pollock (1980) all refer to a portal vault running completely through the eastern building and Seler (ibid) also showed a sketch plan of the eastern building (fig. 132) and described the moldings and upper wall zone of the same building, which carried groups of four banded colonnettes, separated by plain areas. Both the medial and cornice moldings were of the plain, three-member type, with outward sloping members top and bottom and a rectangular central member. Based on this description, the East Building should be classified as a typical Puuc Colonnette style structure.

STELA PLATFORM

The Stela Platform is located 125 meters west-northwest of the northwestern corner of the Nunnery Quadrangle and 100 meters northeast of the northeastern corner of the Cemetery (see site plan). It was first reported by Blom: (1930) and studied in greater detail in 1941 by S.G. Morley. Morley's notes and drawings were not published until 1970, when they were edited and amended by H.E.D. Pollock. The latter report discusses the remains of the 16 stelae found on top of the platform, as well as 25 small altars and 3 miscellaneous sculptures which accompanied the stelae.

I have examined this platform and the stelae on three different occasions (1964, 1973, 1978) and have photographed some of the stelae but there is really nothing of significance I can add to the Morley-Pollock report. These days, the platform is generally overgrown with weeds and the stelae are so weathered that it is hardly worth the effort to find them.

OUTLYING STRUCTURES

Blom (1934:55-59) makes reference to buildings in several outlying groups which neither Pollock nor I have had the occasion to relocate. These include a

Colonnette style building in Group 7 (ibid, fig. 10), what is probably an Early Puuc style building in Group 14 (ibid, fig. 11) and a variant Colonnette style building in Group 18 (ibid, fig. 12). In connection with the latter building, the geometric decorative elements over the doorway are reminiscent of those seen in the upper wall of the rooms on the second level of Structure 1 at Xkakochna.

GROUP 17

This group, which is located some 400 meters southwest of the Chanchimez Group, was investigated by both Blom (1934) and Pollock (1980), but unfortunately, I have not seen this group. Pollock included a sketch plan of the whole group, as well as descriptions of three buildings, only one of which was still standing. The West Building is the best preserved and Pollock's photos (figs. 461, 463) show that the upper wall zone on east side carried stacked, long-nosed masks as well as groups of three colonnettes, alternating with plain areas. He also indicates that the East Building, though mostly fallen, showed similar decorative elements in debris. A photo of the North Building of this group shows a segment of the west facade with remains of long-nosed masks and panels of latticework, which Pollock believed were similar to those on the lateral facades of the Chenes Temple of the Pyramid of the Magician. Given Pollock's data, all three of these buildings should be classified as Puuc Mosaic style structures.

CHANCHIMEZ GROUP

CHANCHIMEZ GROUP

This group is situated about 228 meters south, and slightly west, of the South Acropolis (Palomas Group). I would guess that Teobert Maler recorded this group during his investigations at Uxmal in 1893 but to date his notes on Uxmal have not been published. Blom (1934) noted that group stood on a great terrace mound and included many buildings, most of them fallen. Pollock (1980) included detailed data on the main building of this group, which he called the Temple of the Chanchimez, but did not investigate other structures. I explored this group in 1983 and found it to consist of a very large platform, or terrace, with a row of rooms along part of its northern edge whose roof was at the same level as the terrace behind. The two-story Temple of the Chanchimez is situated near the southwest corner of the great terrace, with a long row of rooms extending eastward from its northeast corner. Near the eastern edge of the main terrace is a row of three rooms with their doorways opening to the west, overlooking the main terrace to the west (see sketch plan). The rooms extending east from the corner of the main building are now mostly fallen but a small section of the rear wall near the center is still standing (see details). The rooms at ground level along the northern edge of the main terrace are completely fallen and we were unable to record any architectural data on them, nor were we able to locate a stairway on this side leading up to the top of the main terrace. Our data refers mostly to the two-story building (Temple of the Chanchimez) described earlier by Pollock, together with a few details from the other structures.

TEMPLE OF CHANCHIMEZ, STRUCTURE 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: The plan, and overall form of this building are somewhat uncertain. Pollock (1980, fig. 450) showed a two-story structure with eleven rooms arranged around the north, east, and west sides of a solid core, and a second story with four rooms over the solid core on the lower level. A broad stairway on the north side, with a passageway below, gives access to the upper level rooms from the main terrace level. My own investigation indicates that the rooms on the north side continue a considerable distance to the east, thus producing the non-symmetrical building shown in my sketch plan. It is still

possible, however, that the rooms in the eastern extension are actually part of a separate building which began just east of the east end of Room 1 as shown on Pollock's plan, although we could not find any "break" at this point indicating this kind of change. Otherwise, my plan for the main rooms on both levels is similar to Pollock's.

ORIENTATION: Nine degrees (magnetic), perpendicular to main (north) facade.

EXTERIOR DETAILS: Details below are for north facade of rooms on lower level.

BASE MOLDING:

Form: Three members. Narrow rectangular members top and bottom, recessed central member.

Size: Overall height about .72 m. Upper member .12 m. high, central member .38 m. high.

Projection: .037 m. at top.

Decoration: Face of upper member sculptured with repeating geometric design, central member filled with small scale latticework (see details).

LOWER WALL ZONE:

Height: 2.37 m., top of base to bottom of medial molding.

Stonework: See "Decoration" below.

Thickness: North wall .61 m. thick at doorjambs of Room 4.

Decoration: Wall completely filled with repeating pattern based on combination of banded colonnettes, vertical rows of diamonds, and long frets (see details).

DOORWAYS:

Shape: Rectangular.

Jambs: Faced with large slabs, full thickness of wall.

Lintels: Wood lintels. One of these still in place over doorway to Room 4.

MEDIAL MOLDING

Form: Three members. Apron-type lower member with rectangular member at top. Decorated central member, with sloping face parallel to face of lower member.

Size: Overall height .61 m. Upper member .14 m. high, central member .27 m. high.

Projection: .35 m. at bottom.

Decoration: Central member filled with zig-zag and triangle motifs (see detail).

UPPER WALL ZONE:

Height: 1.32 m., top of medial molding to bottom of cornice.

Stonework: See "Decoration" below.

Decoration: Wall filled with colonnettes with spools near top and bottom. Spools .26 m. high (see detail).

CORNICE:

Form: Four members. High, apron-type lower member with row of inset colonnettes above. Third member rectangular, with outward sloping coping member at top.

Size: Overall height 1.16 m. Lower three members .81 m. high total.

Projection: About .20 m. at bottom.

Decoration: Next to lowest member carries continuous row of short colonnettes.

ROOF STRUCTURE: Building with four rooms, now mostly fallen, on upper level. See separate description of these rooms.

STAIRWAY: Stairway, 7.75 m. wide, on north side, in front of Room 4, with passageway below. Passageway, which is 1.73 m. wide, covered with half-vault, measuring 2.13 m. from springline to bottom of capstones. Capstones rest on three-member molding, which differs from normal medial molding (see details). Stairway projects out approximately 4.71 m. beyond outer wall of passageway. As noted earlier by Pollock (1980:262) the stairway appears to be secondary to the lower level rooms behind, but I doubt that much time elapsed between the construction of the lower level rooms and the construction of the stairway.

UPPER STORY: I have no real data on rooms (upper story) of this building. At the time of my visit, the upper level was completely overgrown with spring plants, making exploration both difficult and hazardous. My brief notes do, however, confirm Pollock's observation that room(s) on north side had at least two round doorway columns. Neither Pollock nor I were able to locate any decorative elements in debris and stylistic attributes are unknown.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Classic Puuc Mosaic style.

COMMENTS: Pollock (1980, fig. 450) shows plan with nine rooms on lower level and four on upper level. I believe upper level plan is essentially correct but my notes indicate that the row of rooms on the north side, which Pollock shows beginning with Room 1, actually continue for a considerable distance to the east. As measured in situ, these rooms extend to the east for a distance of 43.17 meters from east wall of Pollock's Room 1 to east end of easternmost room. I have shown five rooms in plan of this wing but this is only a guess, as all rooms, including cross walls, are now completely collapsed. It is possible that there was a break between the rooms to the east and the main rooms but if so, we were unable to find it. A portion of the rear wall of the east rooms still in place shows a plain lower wall, with a medial molding above showing same profile as lower three members of cornice molding on north side of main rooms (see detail).

12

SITE: UXMAL

NUMBER: 16Qd(10): 1

DATE: 3/28/1983

TEMPLE OF CHANCHIMEZ

INTERIOR DETAILS: Rooms on Lower Level

ROOM 1

Length: 4.56 m. (approx.).

Width: No data.

Other: Front wall and east end wall fallen.

ROOM 2

Length: 2.56 m. (approx.).

Width: 2.49 m.

Vault: 1.60 m., springline to bottom of capstone molding. Note that vault is at right angles to vaults of adjacent rooms.

Doorway: Doorway to Room 3 in west wall.

ROOM 3 - See separate sheet for data on this room.

ROOM 4

Length: 6.60 m.

Width: 2.61 m. at doorway.

Doorway: Exterior doorway 1.47 m. wide. Wood lintels above.

ROOM 5

Length: 6.02 m.

Width: No data - front wall fallen.

ROOM 6

Length: 4.26 m.-4.56 m.

Width: No data.

ROOM 7

Length: 4.26-4.56 m.

Width: No data.

ROOMS 8 and 9 - No data - completely fallen.

ROOM 10

Length: 4.56 m.

Width: No data.

ROOM 11

Length: 4.56 m.

Width: No data.

OBSERVATIONS: Other details of walls and vaults in these rooms, where still visible, about the same as those seen in Room 3.

SITE: UXMAL

NUMBER: 16Qd(10): 1

DATE: 3/28/1983

TEMPLE OF CHANCHIMEZ

INTERIOR DETAILS: Room 3

DIMENSIONS:

Length: 5.02 m.

Width: 2.56 m.

WALLS:

Height: About 2.56 m., floor to springline.

Thickness: Exterior wall .61 m. thick. Dividing wall to Room 2 is .58 m. thick.

Stonework: Walls faced with small, veneer-type blocks with squarish faces, moderately well-cut.

Doorways: Exterior doorway fallen - no data. Doorway to Room 2 in east wall.

Rod Sockets: No data.

Cordholders: No data.

Wall Openings: None noted.

Platforms: Bench, about .50 m. high, at east end of room.

Other: East end wall carries fret design in wall next to doorway and X motif in central member of three-member molding above (see details).

VAULTS:

Springline Offset: About .05 m.

Height: 1.78 m., springline to bottom of capstone molding.

Form: Vault faces show slight curvature.

Stonework: Vault faced with 8 courses of moderately well-cut wedge-shaped specialized stones.

Capstones: Capstone span about .32 m. Molding below capstones .12 m. high.

Crossbeams: Single crossbeams near ends of room just below springline. Additional crossbeams just below capstone molding.

OBSERVATIONS: Decoration on east wall is rare as most interior walls at Uxmal and elsewhere are plain.

SITE: UXMAL

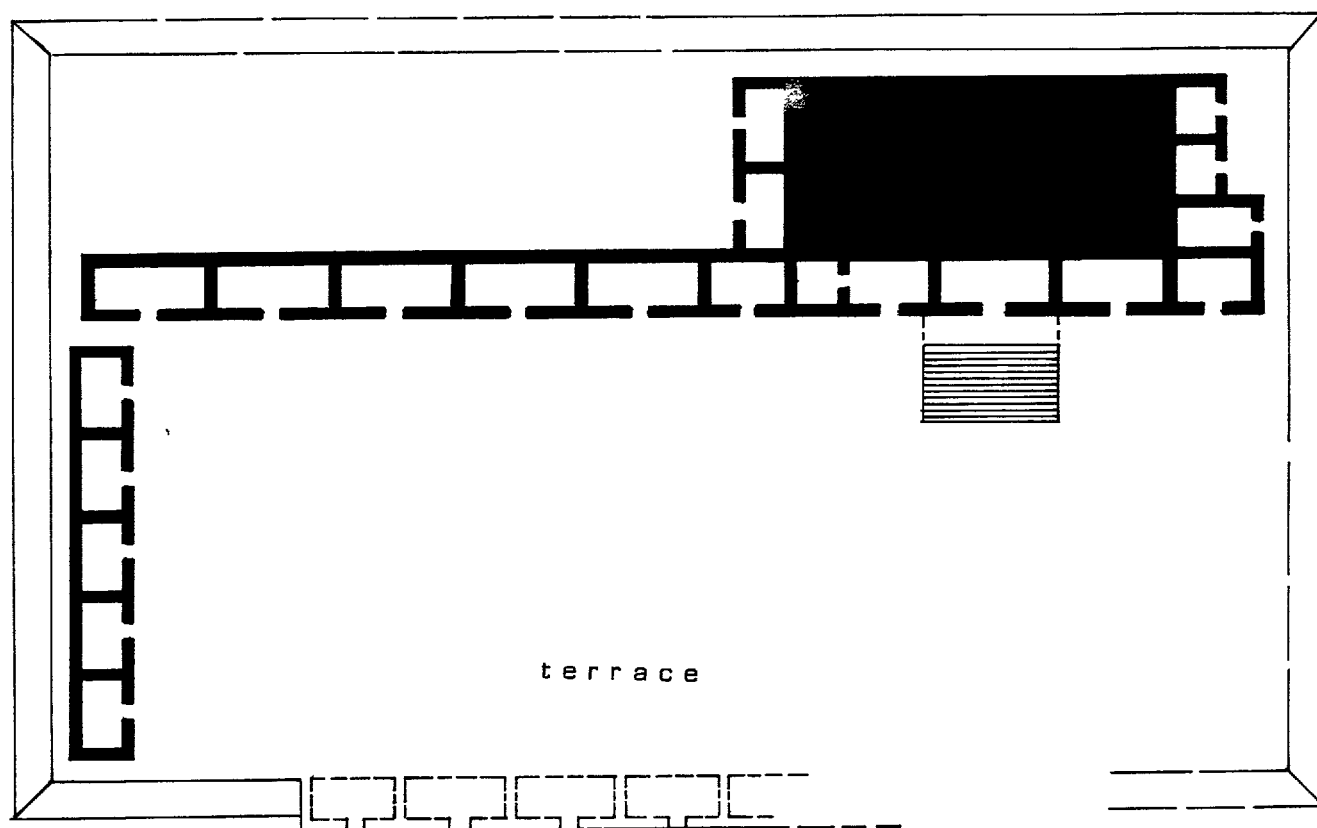
NUMBER:16Qd(10): 1

DATE: 3/28/1983

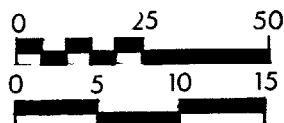
CHANCHIMEZ GROUP, STRUCTURE 2

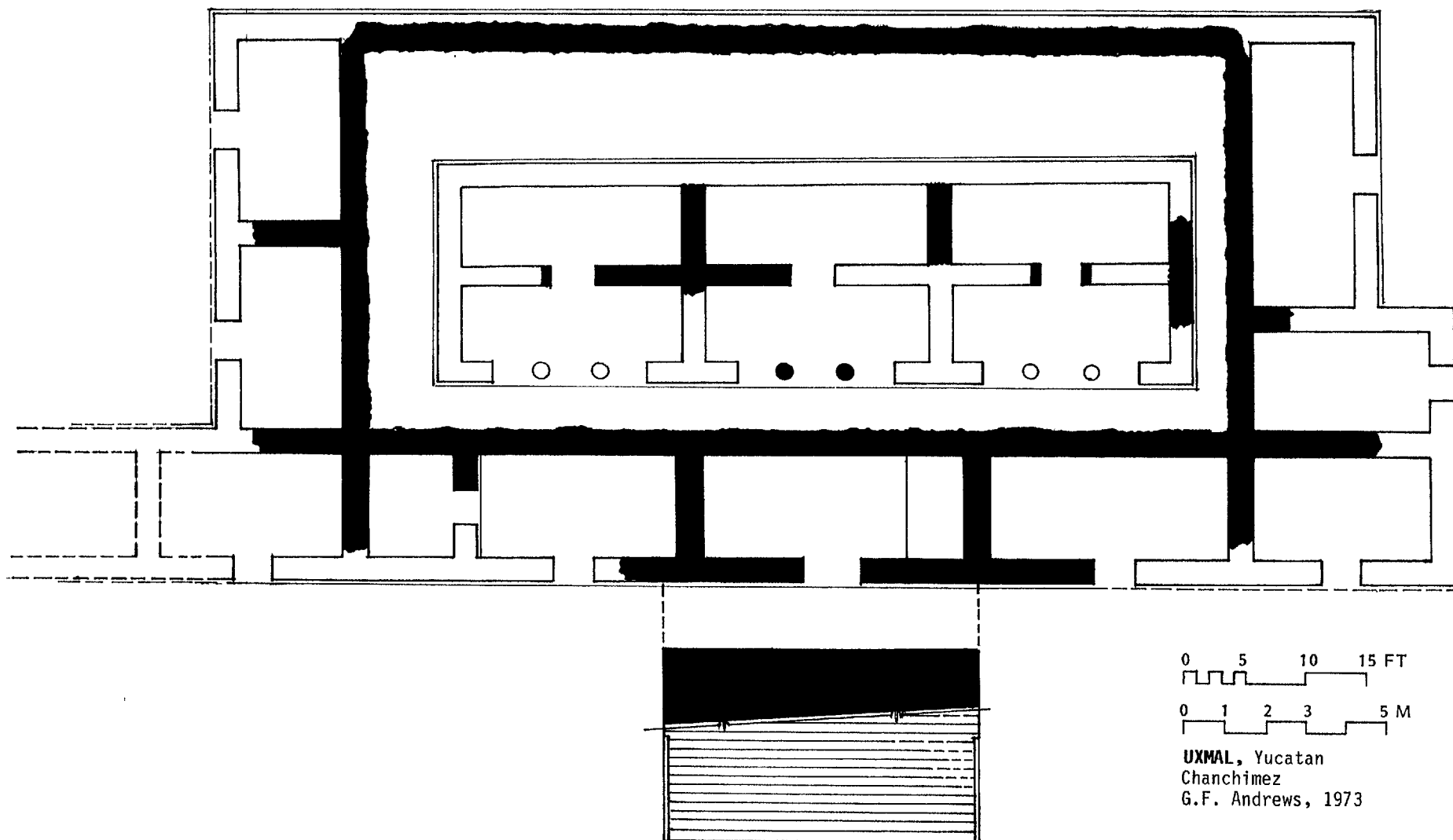
Structure 2, a long, range-type building with a single row of rooms facing west, is situated near the eastern end of the great terrace, or platform, supporting the Group of the Chanchimez. Judging from the position of several large jamb stones in debris on west side, this building may have had as many as five rooms but the exact number is uncertain, due to the advanced state of collapse of the entire building. We also noted some spools in debris, suggesting that main facade may have carried colonnettes with spools, as did the main two-story building (Structure 1). No other data available without extensive clearing and/or excavation.

SITE UXMAL LOCATION YUCATAN - U4 DATE 3/21/83
BUILDING CHANCHIMEZ GROUP DRAWING SKETCH PLAN NO. P/U4/1



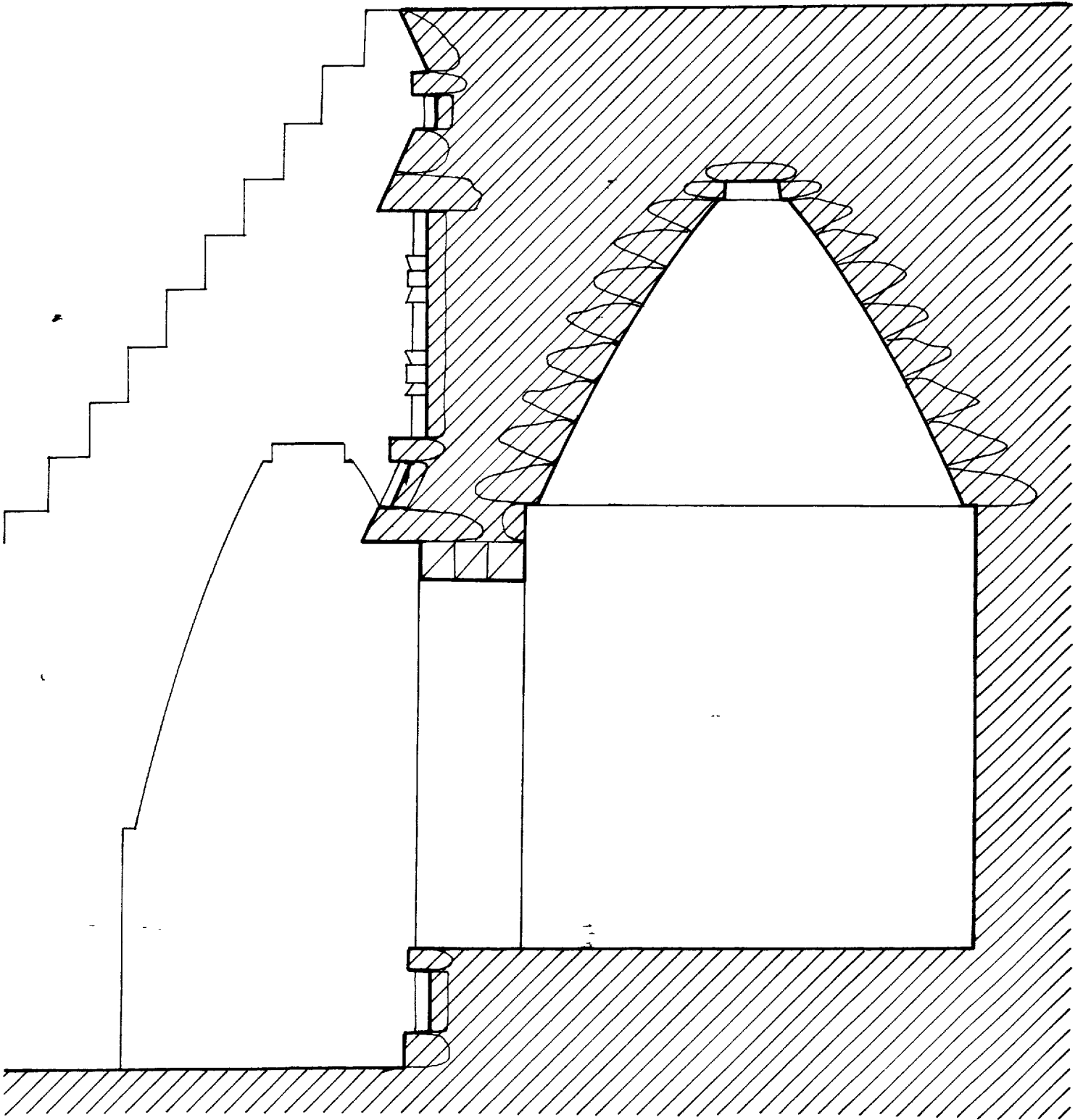
SKETCH PLAN. CHANCHIMEZ GROUP





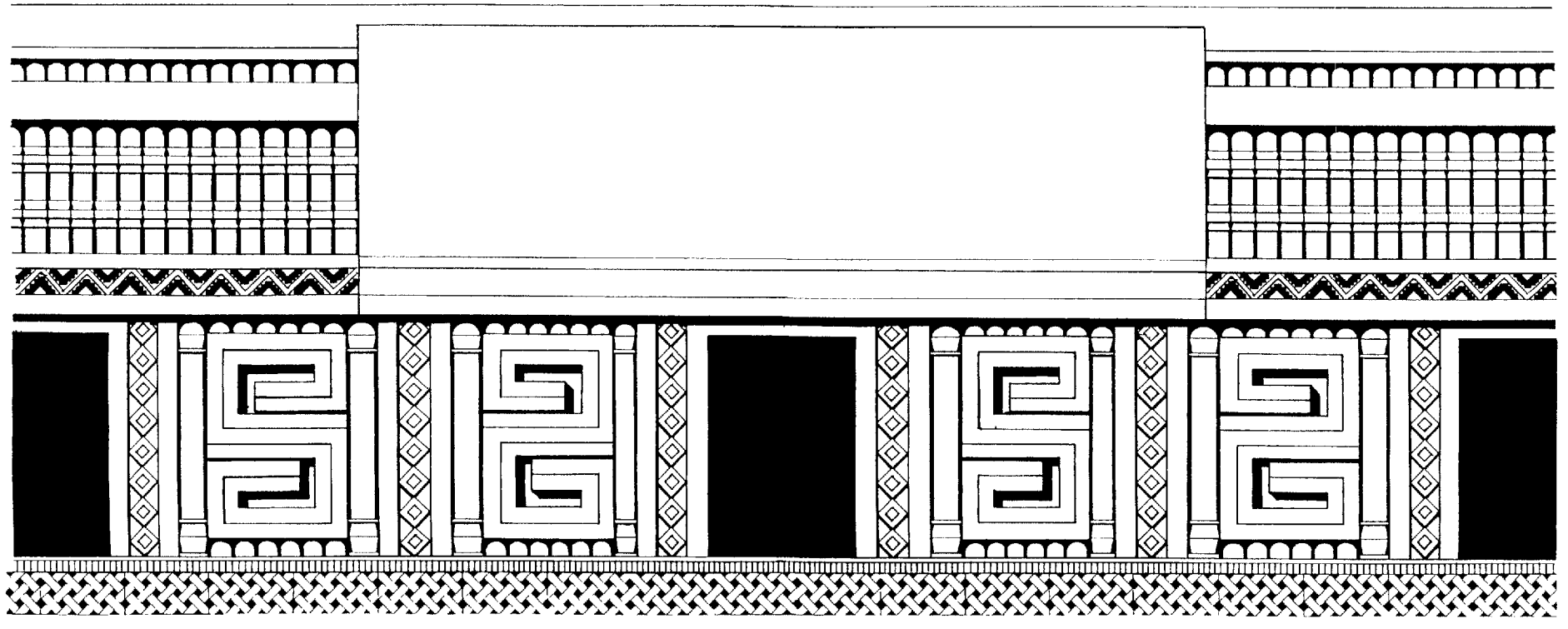
2.1

MA: 1073



UXMAL, CHANCHIMBEZ - section

3'8" scale



UXMAL, CHANCHIMEZ - NORTH ELEVATION, MAIN BUILDING

ROUND BUILDING

STRUCTURE: ROUND BUILDING west of GOVERNOR'S PALACE

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: In 1992, a round structure, which is situated several hundred meters west of the Governor's Palace, was excavated under the co-direction of Jeff Kowalski, University of Northern Illinois, and Alfredo Barrera Rubio, CRY, INAH, Mexico. Following its excavation, this unusual structure could be seen to consist of two major components: 1) a round platform, about 18.69 m in diameter and 1.83 m high, with a broad projecting stairway on the north side; and 2) a round superstructure with a single doorway on the north side, formed by a low masonry wall about 0.89 m thick, 1.0 m high (+/-), and 10.18 m in diameter (see plan). The stairway giving access to the upper building is 8.34 m wide at the bottom with five risers. The entire complex stands on a low platform about 0.30 m high whose northern edge is flush with the lowest riser of the projecting stairway.

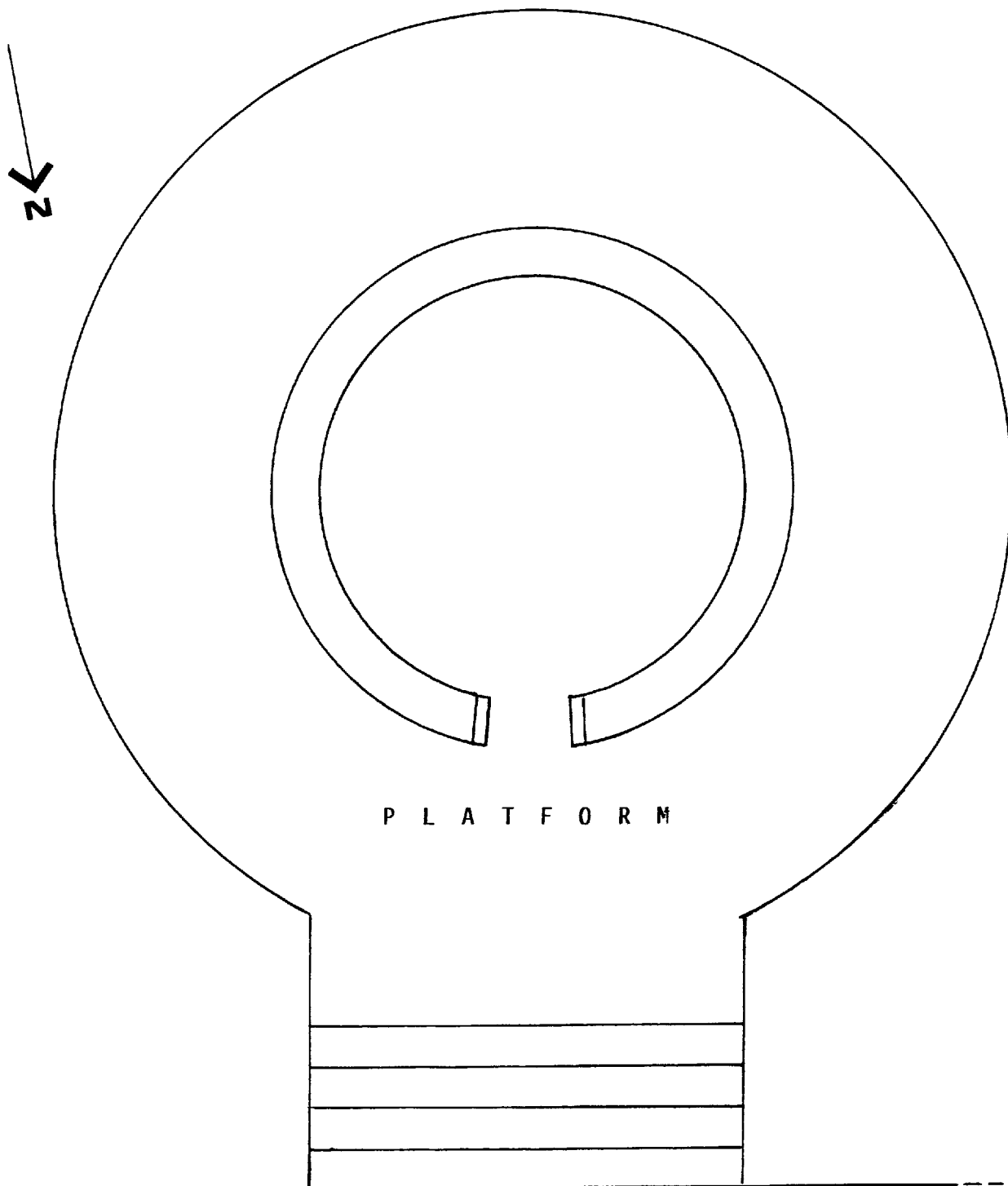
The lack of unaccounted for debris on top of the round platform shows clearly that the walls of the round superstructure did not extend much higher than its present restored height and that it was not covered over by a masonry vault. From this, it seems reasonable to assume that either it had never been roofed over or that it may have been covered with a pole-and-thatch roof which was supported on a series of round posts, placed on top of, or just inside, the low masonry wall of the round superstructure.

As noted by numerous authors, round structures of any kind are extremely rare in the lowland Maya area and the closest approximation of the round structure at Uxmal is the Casa Redonda at Chichen Itza (Pollock, 1936) whose round superstructure also had an additional rounded interior wall, creating two "rooms". Other round structures such as the Caracol at Chichen Itza, Structure 02-15 Sub at Oxkintok, and the round "tower" at Puerto Rico in the Rio Bec region, show very different forms, which cannot be compared with the round building at Uxmal.

The presence of a round structure at a site noted for the strictly rectilinear forms of its major buildings and platforms, raises numerous questions regarding its function(s) and its construction date relative to buildings such as the nearby Governor's Palace. Unfortunately, I have no really good suggestions to offer in regard to its possible function(s). Its use as an astronomical observatory does not seem likely as the single

doorway is oriented about 3 degrees (magnetic) east of north, which does not strike me as a significant "astronomical" alignment. The round "room" of the superstructure is spacious, particularly by normal Puuc standards, suggesting something like a meeting house but the lack of similar round structures at other large and important Puuc sites mitigates against such a function.

As far as its construction date is concerned, I am also unable to come up with a plausible date, based solely on architectural criteria. On one hand, the stonework in the facings of both the platform and superstructure consist of moderately well-dressed veneer-type blocks and the doorway shows full width jamb stones of the kind seen on all Late/Terminal classic Puuc structures. On the other hand, its closest counterpart, the Casa Redonda at Chichen Itza is believed to be a late post-classic structure (Pollock, 1937), and the round structures at Mayapan are also post-classic constructions. See Kowalski and Barrera Rubio (1992) for further discussion of these questions.



ROUND BUILDING - PLAN

0 5 10 15 FT

0 1 2 3 4 5 M

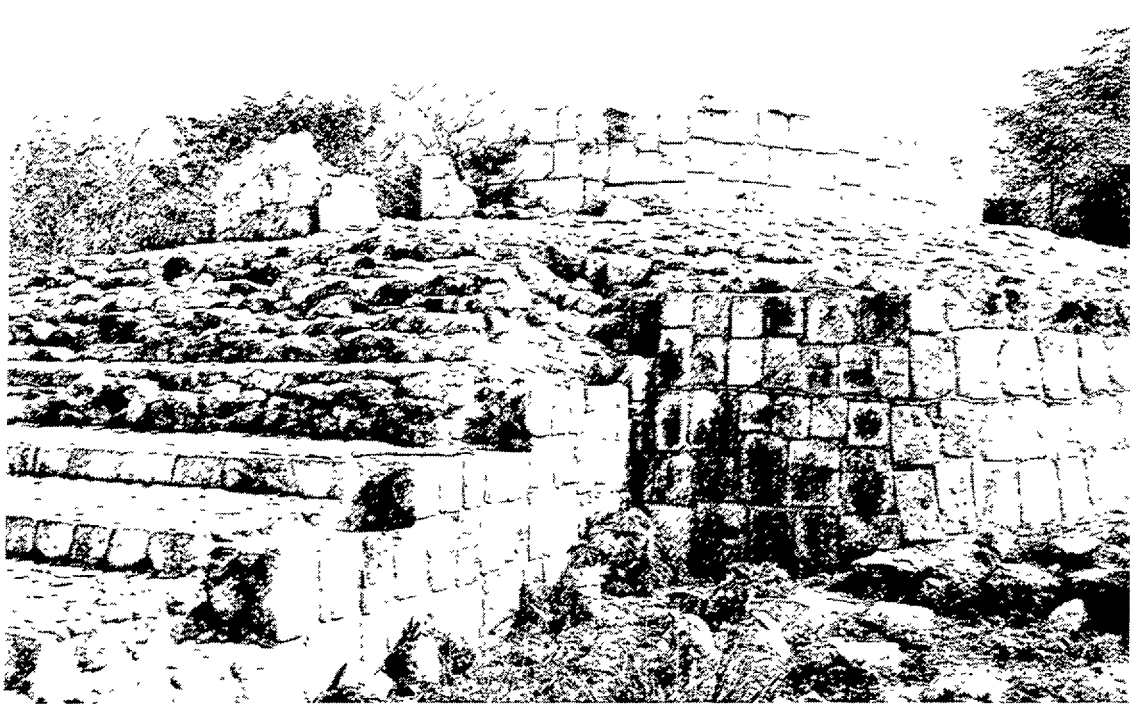
UXMAL, Yucatan
 Site; 16Qd(10):1
 Round Building
 (near Gov. Palace)
 G.F. Andrews, 1993



UXMAL, Round Building west of Governor's Palace. View of north side



UXMAL, Round Building west of Governor's Palace. Stairway, north side



UXMAL, Round Building west of Governors Palace. View looking southeast



UXMAL, Round Building west of Governor's Palace. Entrance, upper level

PORTAL VAULT



a



b

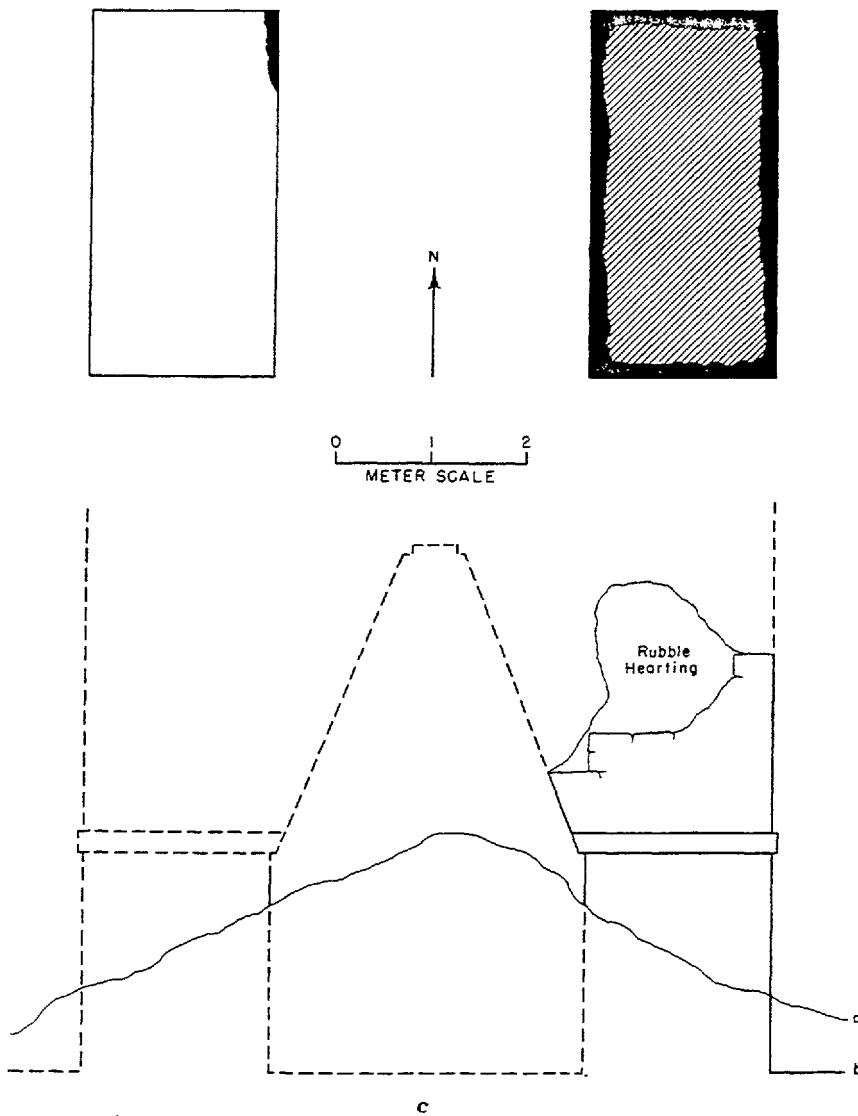


Fig. 1

UXMAL, Yucatan
Site 16Qd(10):1
Portal Vault
Ruppert & Smith, 1950

127

